

# Mrs Gandhi loses her seat in Congress disaster

Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, was defeated by 55,000 votes in her Uttar Pradesh constituency as election results were counted early today, and her Congress Party suffered serious losses, particularly in the north. The opposition won all the Delhi seats. Mrs Gandhi's son, Sanjay, failed in his first attempt to gain election to Parliament and several ministers lost their parliamentary seats.

## Sanjay is also defeated

By Richard Wigg  
Delhi, March 20

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, suffered a stunning defeat in her home constituency of the opposition Janata Party, which is headed for victory in the Indian general election early today.

She lost her seat in Rae Bareilly, where her younger son Sanjay was heavily defeated in the neighbouring constituency of Amethi.

Mrs Gandhi lost by 55,000 votes to Mr Raj Narain, who was defeated by 110,000 in 1971 when her party won a narrow two-thirds majority. Mr Narain was held for 20 months as a political prisoner under the 1975 state of emergency.

Mr Sanjay Gandhi, whose emergence as a close adviser to his mother had become an important campaign issue, was defeated by 76,000 votes in his first attempt to gain election to Parliament.

Early today the Janata Party called on the Prime Minister to resign.

Mr D. K. Borooah, the Congress Party chairman, who himself appears to be winning in Assam constituency, went to the Prime Minister's residence with one of the party's general secretaries.

Mr Borooah said he had arrived in Delhi just before midnight.

With results declared for 200 seats in 542-member Parliament, Sanjay lost the election on a "democracy versus dictatorship" platform, had captured 100 seats against 75 for the Congress Party.

The breakaway Congress Party for Democracy had one seat. The remainder went to independent, communist and regional groups.

Several of Mrs Gandhi's ministers were defeated. The defeat of Mr Bansi Lal, the defence minister, who lost by 30,000 votes in Haryana, showed the strength of feeling in northern India against the emergency which Mrs Gandhi imposed in June 1975.

Mr Lal was one of her chief advisers on the emergency and linked in friendship with Mr Sanjay Gandhi, who had counselled his mother not to speed the emergency.

Thousands of delighted opposition supporters took to the streets of Delhi last night on hearing that the Janata Party had swept all constituencies in the city, and won them all in the 41 elections.

As cars carrying the green and orange Janata flag went through the streets, people in the crowd kept on asking what had happened to Mrs Gandhi and her son.

Dr S. D. Sharma, the Minister of Communications and former Congress Party chairman, conceded defeat to his Janata Party rival in Madhya Pradesh. His opponent commented: "I am glad the people voted without fear."

So far as a trend can be sensed at the moment, the opposition appears to have benefited most in the north where the impact of the emergency declared in June, 1975, was felt with full force. Congress, however, was not obtaining as much support as expected in the south.

Janata and the other main opposition grouping, the breakaway Congress Party for Democracy, have meanwhile begun talks on how to proceed if victory is theirs.

A Congress Party spokesman immediately warned people against taking part in the last round of voting that the opposition groups would succumb to a "bitter power struggle" if they won. He emphasized yet again that stability lay with voting back Congress.

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Face of victory: Mr Jagjivan Ram, former Cabinet colleague of Mrs Gandhi who is now an opposition leader, photographed as results were coming in last night.

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## Economists call for £3,000m tax reliefs

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent

A call to the Chancellor to reflate the economy with tax cuts of some £3,000m comes today from leading economists in Cambridge.

In its latest Review, the Cambridge Economic Policy Group says the Budget ought to include net tax cuts of some £2,000m "over and above" £1,000m of extra tax allowances necessary to take account of inflation.

The authors of the Review, who include Mr Wynne Godley, Director of Cambridge University's Department of Applied Economics, and Mr Francis Cripps, economic adviser to Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, give warning that import controls will have to be introduced in coming years if the United Kingdom is to have any chance of bringing down unemployment without an unacceptable depreciation of the pound.

They say that if what they call "conventional policies" are pursued, unemployment could rise steadily to about two million by 1985. In order to bring it down, they argue, the economy will have to grow at around 5 per cent a year for the next 10 years.

The Review sets its face firmly against the idea that a rise in unemployment is inevitable or necessary to bring down inflation—or of only secondary importance.

As well as the problems experienced by those who cannot find work, the country's real national income is estimated to be 10 per cent lower than it would have been if unemployment had been kept to 750,000.

The recession is stated to have made inflation worse rather than better by cutting the amount of real income available without reducing claims to the same extent. In a thorough-going attack on monetarist views of inflation, the authors claim there is no evidence that inflation was caused by excessive growth in the money supply, or that the rapid growth in money supply in 1972 to 1974 was caused by excessive public sector borrowing.

They believe that deficits have not been too large in the recent past, considering the depth of recession, and are particularly critical of critics—including *The Times*—who argued for bigger cuts in government spending than were carried out.

Looking forward for the next five or 10 years, the authors give warning that British industry has been so weakened by years of stagnation and low growth that it will take several years of this decade supply constraints will begin to appear if there were movement towards anything like full employment.

These would result in such an increase in imports that the balance of payments would be endangered even with the beneficial effects of North Sea oil. The only way to get fast growth and a return to full employment was by introducing import controls. These would have limited impact in the next few years, but would become progressively more valuable as time went by. They would need to be extended to a growing proportion of all imports to be effective.

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Tax cuts advocated, page 14

## Government considers deals with Liberals and Unionists as means to avoid election

By David Leigh  
Political Staff

A sombre and fatalistic mood was scuttling over Labour Cabinet ministers and backbenchers last night as Mr Callaghan stayed at Chequers trying to work out whether to deal with either the Liberals or the Ulster Unionists could save the Government on Wednesday's confidence motion.

Mr Steel, the Liberal leader, yesterday demanded "an open and public agreement" as the price of support in the lobbies. Although Liberals hope to see Labour backbenchers put pressure on the Government to avoid a general election, the feeling among some ministers is that the Liberals may have over-played their hand.

Labour left-wingers were saying that a specific agreement to govern on the Liberals' terms is intolerable. A weekend of heated manoeuvring went on among all ranks after Mr Callaghan's Cabinet ministers now admit it is a grievous error of parliamentary tactics last week in avoiding a vote on public expenditure.

The Liberals, the Ulstermen, and not least the Conservatives, have ended "a moment of truth", in Mr Callaghan's phrase, almost by accident. Last week's vote has provoked the opposition parties into demonstrating that they are prepared to challenge the Government. Labour MPs were saying bitterly over the weekend that a general election is now entirely probable.

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, at the Commons during the past 24 hours and "our view is that we shall vote against the Government". But further talks are to take place behind the scenes at Westminster today and tomorrow.

Mr Steel based the disposal of the Liberal Party's vote on the national interest when he appeared on the Independent Television programme *Weekend World* yesterday. What, in the Government's present programme, Peter Jay asked, did not satisfy that interest?

Mr Steel replied that until now the Government had been operating on the basis of the Labour manifestos of 1974, not the basis of the national interest. They could do that quite justifiably only on the basis of a Commons majority, which clearly they did not now have.

To ensure Liberal support on Wednesday night, the Government "would have to accept that they are not the party that has control over the House of Commons and begin with the negative proposition that there would be no further expansion of socialism; we cannot go on extending confidence to a government unless there is agreement between us".

What remained of Labour manifesto policies of 1974 that Liberals found offensive? Mr Steel answered that there was still the Queen's Speech commitment to a Bill on direct labour (already delayed by the Government); and he believed

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The royal tour of Australia will not be cut short if an election is called in Britain, Mr Ronald Allison, the Queen's press secretary, said yesterday (Reuter reports).

a close associate of Mr Callaghan, said on BBC radio yesterday that it was up to Mr Steel to decide whether there would be a general election. If there was, "so be it". Eventually a government had to stand up and be counted.

Mr Rees pointed to the erosion of Labour's parliamentary position with by-elections pending and the illness of some MPs. Mr Thomas Lister, a Liberal MP, has suffered a heart attack and is unlikely to be able to vote. Other Labour MPs have to be brought to the House by ambulance.

The arithmetic did not look good for Wednesday's vote, he said. If the vote is lost an election will follow, although at least one Cabinet minister was arguing at the weekend that the Queen might send for Mrs Thatcher to form a government before an election; she could then go to the country as Prime Minister.

Technically, the Government could hang on and force Mrs Thatcher to table another motion for an immediate election, but it would cause controversy.

Mr Rees said the issue was not a "question of deals", but of the Ulster Unionists and the Liberals looking at the hard

The visits to Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Papua New Guinea would go ahead as planned. The tour is due to last until March 31.

facts of the political situation. The Government did not have a parliamentary majority, but it had enacted the greater part of its manifesto. The important things that remained to be done, such as negotiating a third phase of pay policy, did not necessarily require legislation.

On the matter of the Ulster Unionists, with whom some left-wingers would be prepared to see an accommodation, as the less dangerous of the two options, Mr Rees agreed that Northern Ireland was under-represented at Westminster, and said that although a return to Stormont was not possible, "we want to see a devolved administration in Northern Ireland".

Mr Molyneux, parliamentary leader of the United Ulster Unionist Coalition, intends to see the Prime Minister and Mrs Thatcher today. But despite Mr Enoch Powell's well-known wish to support the Labour Government, and the mistrust felt by other Unionists towards the Tories, who deprived them of Stormont, most of them seem likely disposed to support the Government.

The Liberals have served public notice that they want not only a halt to specifically socialist legislation, which the parlia-

mentary situation has already effectively ensured; they also want concessions in four main areas. Those are for a restructured devolution Bill, with proportional representation; elections in the European parliament; progress in industrial democracy; and tax reforms.

Mr John Pardon, the party's economic spokesman, said on BBC radio yesterday that a major shift from income tax to a greatly increased employers' national insurance contribution could halve income tax in two years.

Mr Reg Prentice, the former Labour Cabinet minister, has come out alongside the Liberals in his quest for a realignment towards the centre in British politics. His threat is more likely to be of substance than of voting with the Tories.

If the Liberals precipitate an election, not only do some of their MPs, such as Mr Russell Johnston, face defeat, but the prospect is of Mrs Thatcher coming to power with a big majority and the Liberals having no influence whatsoever. That argument is all Labour ministers can count on; they hope that "political reality" will lead Liberals not to ask for too much, because it simply is not politically available.

The Unionists, though truculent, could get an offer in the next few days. But it may not deliver enough votes. Without Mr Prentice, the two Scottish Labour Party MPs, and Mr Lister, the Government is at least five votes short.

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Leading article, page 15

## Curb on socialism among Mr Steel's terms

By David Wood  
Political Editor

The Government's best hope of defeating Mrs Thatcher's "no confidence" motion in the Commons on Wednesday night and staving off a general election was provisionally dashed yesterday by Mr Steel, the Liberal Party leader, who set out his terms for a deal with Mr Callaghan.

Mr Steel said he had consulted his 12 Liberal colleagues at the Commons during the past 24 hours and "our view is that we shall vote against the Government". But further talks are to take place behind the scenes at Westminster today and tomorrow.

Mr Steel based the disposal of the Liberal Party's vote on the national interest when he appeared on the Independent Television programme *Weekend World* yesterday. What, in the Government's present programme, Peter Jay asked, did not satisfy that interest?

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## Tories criticize Annan plan for new broadcasting authority

By a Staff Reporter

The main proposal of the Annan report on the future of broadcasting, that the hegemony of the BBC and IBA be broken by the setting up of an Open Broadcasting Authority to run a fourth television channel, was criticized yesterday by the Conservative Party's media committee. It called the report "a dog's breakfast".

The authority would buy and transmit ready-made programmes, but would not produce them as the BBC and the independent companies do on the other three channels. It would, however, run its own news service. It would not be allowed to show feature films.

It would be financed partly by advertising revenue, with advertisements appearing in 20-minute blocks, as is the practice in West Germany, and partly by education grants and by direct sponsorship by industry.

Mr Julian Critchley, MP for Aldershot and the Conservative committee's chairman, said that the proposed authority would offer the public minority broadcasting, which they would not watch but which they would have to pay for.

He was also critical of two other proposals in the report. These are that a joint public inquiry board be set up for broadcasting and that a separate authority be established to run the BBC's and IBA's local radio stations.

The broad outlines of the report were published on Sunday in *The Observer* and other Sunday newspapers. It is not due to be published officially until Thursday. The Government, the BBC, the IBA, and the independent broadcasting companies decided to comment yesterday.

Among its lesser proposals, the report suggests that there should be no advertisements during children's programmes; that Radio Times and TV Times be merged; that the simul-

aneous screening of party political broadcasts on all channels should not be obligatory except during general election campaigns; that there should be a fourth television channel in Wales which would use the Welsh language; that newspapers' financial interest in television companies should be limited; and that the practice of dubbing audience reaction into recorded television material should be abandoned.

A minority group within the Annan committee, led by Mr Phillip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby North, recommends that BBC television and radio should be run under separate boards. The main report, however, proposes that the BBC's control of television and national radio should be left intact.

Our Arts Reporter writes: The BBC is unlikely to be hostile to the report, with the exception of the recommendation to remove its control of local radio.

Mr Houseman: Died with wife in road accident.

Former Chelsea player killed.

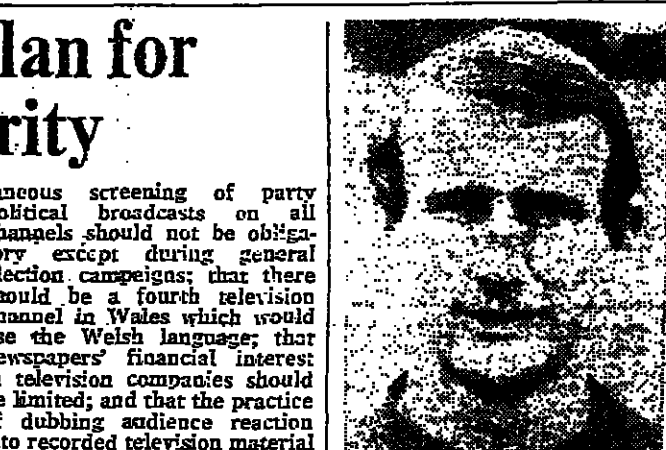
Mr Peter Houseman, the Oxford United and former Chelsea footballer, died with his wife Sally, and two other people in a three-car accident near Oxford early yesterday. Four others were badly injured. Mr Houseman had played for Oxford for two years.

There's a lot more to KFR than town and country houses. We handled all the property transactions for the Covent Garden Market Authority in its move to Nine Elms. Who knows? One day we may be reminding you that we have a residential side too.

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## Palestinians agree on a political programme

Our Correspondent

On March 20, the Palestine National Council adopted a political programme which called for the establishment of a Palestinian state and at the same time continuation of the struggle against Israel.

The programme was reached after extensive bargaining between moderates, led by Mr Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and members of the Revisionist Front under the leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The Revisionist Front refuses to accept negotiations with Israel. It wants the disappearance of the Jewish state and its replacement by a secular Palestinian state in all of the former mandate to embrace Muslims, Christians and Jews.

The programme, a compromise between hard and soft, in fact includes implicit agreement to Palestinian attendance at the Geneva Middle East conference, or any other forum, but not on the basis of the United Nations Resolution of 1967.

The 15-point programme stressed that the Palestinian problem is the root of the Arab East crisis, and said that the PLO would ignore Palestinian rights.

Mr Peter Sellers hospital.

Mr Peter Sellers, the actor, in Charing Cross Hospital, London, last night after collapsing on an air France flight from Paris to Heathrow.

His wife said he was under erosion and his condition satisfactory.

doctor on the aircraft gave assistance to Mr Sellers, who with his wife, and the captain, asked for an ambulance to be waiting on the apron. He was taken to hospital.

## Strike will close most docks today

Most of Britain's big ports are expected to be at a standstill today because of a one-day strike by dockers in protest at the threatened closure of Preston docks. Dockers in London and Aberdeen are likely to work normally.

There will be no work at Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Hull, Grimsby, Birmingham, Bristol or Southampton. About 50 ships will be idle in Humber docks.

## High turn-out lifts right-wing hope in French ballot

A good turn-out by French voters in the second round of the municipal elections suggested that the government parties had succeeded in getting their supporters to the polls to block further advances by the left. At midday votes cast were running 2 per cent higher than in the first ballot.

This was also true of Paris, where M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, had high hopes of being elected Mayor.

## Party list system likely for Europe

The White Paper on direct elections to Europe is likely to be published next week, and may propose use of the regional party list system. As a once-for-all operation that would ensure more equal representation between the parties, and help to counter Conservative domination of the European delegation in a bad year for Labour.

## Treasury likely to remain one unit

The Prime Minister is unlikely to split the Treasury into two departments while Mr Healey remains Chancellor. Mr Healey is not an advocate of division and the burden of the Treasury has been eased by the promotion to the Cabinet of Mr Barnett, Treasury Chief Secretary.

## Exam results doubts

Figures suggesting that comprehensive schools are not doing as well in examinations as grammar and secondary modern children should be treated with the "utmost caution", Dame Margaret Miles, chairman of the Campaign for Comprehensive Education, said.





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## HOME NEWS

### Ulster Unionists want devolved assembly as a condition of support in confidence vote

From Christopher Walker  
Belfast

After two days of hectic political activity behind the scenes, opinion was strengthening last night that the Government will be able to count on the vote of only one MP from Northern Ireland in Wednesday's confidence debate in the Commons.

In spite of a continued silence from Mr. Enoch Powell and Mr. James Moynihan, leader of the "loyalist" coalition at Westminster, it was believed that short of an unprecedented about-turn by the Government on the issue of power-sharing, all 10 Ulster Unionists (including the two independents) would vote with the Conservatives.

There was also considerable speculation that the Ulster Unionists would support the Government's proposal for a new assembly, but Mr. Frank Maguire, the independent republican from Fermanagh and South Tyrone, would abstain because of the lack of progress in his one-man campaign to improve

prison conditions for members of the Provisional IRA. That was impossible to check, but Mr. Maguire was unavailable for comment at a remote holiday retreat in the Donegal mountains.

That would leave Mr. Gerard Fitz, leader of the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party, as the Government's one certain supporter from Ulster. But even he was insisting that his vote was dependent on the Government not concluding any last-minute political deals with his loyalist opponents.

Both publicly and privately the Unionists have made clear that the minimum requirement for a change of heart will be a public pledge by the Government to introduce a new assembly in Northern Ireland. That would rule out any possibility of institutionalized power-sharing with the majority and open the way for a return of majority government at Stormont.

That argument was summed

up yesterday by Mr. James McCusker, the United Ulster Unionist MP for Armagh, who described Unionist demands as being "for nothing short of a return to the same standards of democracy as exist in Westminster or are proposed for the assembly of Scotland".

He emphasized that the loyalists would also be expecting some concrete assurances from the Conservative Party to ensure their voting support on Wednesday.

The demand for a new assembly for Northern Ireland along the lines of the rejected Conservative report will be made at Westminster today when Mr. Moynihan is scheduled to meet the Prime Minister and other members of the Government.

Other matters to be requested by the Unionists will include guarantees about increased representation at Westminster, tougher local security measures against the IRA and renewed high levels of economic aid.

On the Unionist side the main uncertainty concerns the attitude of Mr. Powell, one of only three loyalists who have not yet declared publicly their determination to bring down the Government. But it was acknowledged in Belfast political circles that a refusal to vote with his colleagues could lose him the important UUCU endorsement in his Down, South, seat at any forthcoming election.

Of the two independent Unionists, Mr. James Kilfedder, MP for Down, North, has long been outspoken in his criticism of the Government and his determination to vote against it because of its security policies. Yesterday he dismissed Mr. Moynihan's planned talks with the Prime Minister as a waste of time.

Mr. William Craig, leader of the Vanguard Party and MP for Belfast, East, is also committed by a party decision taken six weeks ago to do all in his power to bring down the Government, mainly because of its refusal to take new political initiatives in Ulster.

### Liberal offer 'the same as made to Mr Heath'

Continued from page 1

it still planned to legislate to nationalise water companies.

More important, there were things afoot in the wings that were not in the Government's programme, like nationalizing banking and insurance.

A Government agreement with the Liberals would guarantee that none of that would go forward. It was known to Liberals what the Government's proposals were going to be on housing finance, an important issue on which the Liberals had strong views, because a great deal of encouragement could be given to home ownership, and "we do not know that is the Government view".

Mr. Steel said that was why he was not prepared to ask his party to go on propping up a government without knowing their policy. "We are", he added, "an opposition, independent party, and if the Government want our support they cannot proceed on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. They must proceed on a negotiated basis."

Was the lapsing of the devolution Bill an element in any pact with the Government? Mr. Steel replied that there was a majority of nearly 40 votes on the second reading of the

present unsatisfactory Bill in the Commons, and there were many points where critics of the Bill and those who would like devolution to go forward agreed.

But the overlapping powers of the Secretary of State for Scotland and the new Scottish Assembly were widely agreed to be unsatisfactory.

Moreover, the constitutional commission recommended that the assemblies should be elected by proportional representation and "the Government have remained quite adamant and said they were sticking to what the Labour Party wants. If they want our support this one of the things on which they would have to give way."

If there was going to be a guillotine on a revised devolution Bill, there would have to be an improved Bill first. Liberals were very strongly for separate Bills for Scotland and Wales. The Government simply ignored Parliament.

Under questioning, Mr. Steel was coy about proposals the Liberals have submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to influence the Budget he is to open tomorrow week.

He reluctantly confessed that Liberals based their economic proposals on securing a third year of pay agreement where-

by income tax concessions could be traded off against a bigger national insurance impost on employers, who would benefit consequently from a lowering of wage demands.

Peter Jay suggested that if the Government did not meet Mr. Steel's conditions, he would have to go ahead and force a general election at an unfavourable time for the Liberal Party.

Mr. Steel rejected that analysis. He did not accept that conditions were unfavourable for the Liberals on the evidence of recent opinion polls, compared with 1974. "But even if I accepted your assumption we cannot accept the basis of voting in Parliament in accordance with the electoral interests. We have to vote in the national interest or not."

Mr. Steel dismissed the argument that Liberals are a minority party by making the point that all Westminster parties are now minority parties, and "it is going to be a government based on the views of more than one party; we are making exactly the same offer that we made to Mr Heath in the aftermath of the February, 1974, election."

He said that Mr. Heath rejected the offer of consistent

Liberal support (Mr. Heath's version would be that Mr. Heath could not carry his colleagues with him), but there was not a parliamentary majority for it.

Asked about the ethics of precipitating an election by bringing down Mr. Callaghan and asking the Prime Minister, Mr. Steel commented that at the end of the day "you have to have confidence in the electorate". He did not think a great Tory landslide would occur. Even if it did, that would be what the people had voted for. What was wrong with that? If the people voted for that, "we should have to live with it."

In any event, Mr. Steel said, he favoured a fixed-term Parliament instead of an open-ended option for the Prime Minister as now. He added: "It is really a decision for the Government, not the Liberal Party, whether we are going to have an election after next Wednesday, and it is for the Labour Party and its left wing to decide."

At the end of the interview, Mr. Steel provisionally added to his requirements for any pact with Mr. Callaghan some progress on direct elections next year to the European Parliament.

Moment of truth, page 15

### SNP confident of taking Glasgow City Council

From Martin Huckerby  
Edinburgh

The Scottish nationalists are poised to topple the Labour Party from its central citadel in Scotland, the Glasgow City District Council, in the local elections in May. They believe that not only can they take control of a council on which they have only one member at present, but also that they can make great inroads elsewhere.

Local election results are an unrelenting guide to voters' behaviour at a subsequent general election, and the Labour Party in Scotland will no doubt shrug off its losses as no more than the usual local election swing against the party in power nationally.

Psychologically, however, such results will be very important. It will be the first real test of public opinion in Scotland since the defeat of the guillotine on the devolution Bill, and any victories over Labour, and over the Conservatives will be trumpeted by the Scottish National Party as clear evidence of a growing demand for independence.

Nevertheless, all is not plain sailing for the nationalists as they prepare for the elections. Despite the propaganda, the party is being selective about the seats it will contest, and in some cities where it has considerable support, such as Aberdeen, Perth and Dundee, it is planning to put up so few candidates that even if they are all elected there would be no chance of the SNP gaining control.

In Dundee, for instance, where the nationalists hold one of the two parliamentary seats and believe they will soon have the other, they seem to have an ideal target in a Labour administration riven by accusations of corruption and by faction fights between left and right wings.

Labour holds control there only with the casting vote of the lord provost, and the opposition Progressive Conservative group is confident of taking over on May 3, particularly since several of the sitting Labour councillors have not been renominated by the left-wing controlled party, and

some of those are considering standing as independents.

Yet the SNP may not put up any candidates at all, and at most would probably nominate only six people. The official explanation is that the party prefers to concentrate on parliamentary elections, but Mr. Brian Innes-Will, the SNP's vice-chairman for organization, admitted yesterday that Dundee council was in such a mess that his party did not want to get involved in the intractable political and economic problems.

Generally, the party says that it wants to ensure it has worthy candidates, and it also wants to husband its resources so as to gain as many victories as possible. Thus, in Edinburgh it is likely to contest perhaps only half of the seats, and in the five districts of the Grampian region, including Aberdeen, is planning to put up a meagre 30 candidates.

Mr. Innes-Will said that there would be at least 350 dates in May, concentrated heavily in the central industrial belt, which is Labour's heartland.

The nationalists certainly have a chance of taking over in Glasgow, where they might need only one third of the seats to gain control. The Labour Party's assistant Scottish organizer, Mr. James Allison, said after the guillotine defeat: "I think it will be exceptionally difficult for the Labour Party to retain control of Glasgow and some of the larger district councils like Renfrew."

The SNP is well aware of the danger of taking over a council with an inexperienced team. Party officials have drawn up lists of candidates who would be suitable for important posts.

Control of Glasgow might bring political kudos, but in the long term could prove damaging. At present the social and economic ills can be blamed on the Labour administration. One of the features of the three-party system in much of Scotland is that a party can wield considerable influence on a council while remaining in a minority. To hold the balance of power may be more advantageous than complete control.

### Labour chooses NUM man

Mr. Raymond Ellis, aged 53, president of the Derbyshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers, was chosen last night as prospective parliamentary Labour candidate for Derbyshire, North-East. Mr. Thomas Swain (Labour) had a majority of 10,237 at the last general election in a three-cornered fight.

Mr. Jan Smith, aged 40, a Glasgow photographer, has been adopted as the Scottish National Party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Kinross and West Perthshire. Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn, QC (Conservative), had a majority of 55 at the last general election.

### Hunt protesters disrupt service

The Rev Eric Wheeler, vicar of St. Stephen's, Brompton, Essex, called in the police to effect demonstrators who interfered with his church service yesterday morning.

The demonstrators carried placards attacking the vicar, a member of the Packeridge and Thurlow Hunt, for his hunting activities.

Sir James Miller dies

Sir James Miller, Lord Provost of Edinburgh from 1951 to 1954 and Lord Mayor of London from 1964 to 1965, died yesterday. He was 72.

### Tories ready for election, Mrs Thatcher says

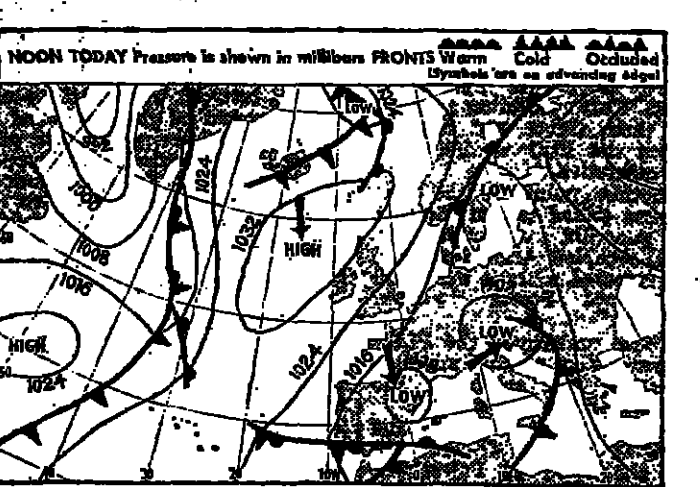
"A government that cannot get its major policies through the House of Commons cannot survive," Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, said in a speech to the Conservative Central Council conference at Torquay on Saturday.

In an attack on the Government for its behaviour in tabling a motion of confidence on its own initiative the next day and debating it, and third on knowing when to go. The events of last week's public expenditure debate are of a kind that we have never seen. She said that no government faced with a parliamentary battle had turned and fled, then claimed, "We weren't defeated, we didn't vote." This was a major issue. Public expenditure comes from the taxpayer's pay packet or the pensioner's pension. Every pound taken by the Government is a pound lost for the citizen to spend himself. And the Government must take a lot of pounds. To be precise, it is proposing to spend some £52,000 million this year. To us, all power is a trust and we are responsible for its custody. Responsible to whom? To Parliament, to the elected representatives of the people. But this is the very body the Government tries to stop from taking a decisive vote.

the last Prime Minister, first on actually voting, second on tabling a motion of confidence on its own initiative the next day and debating it, and third on knowing when to go. The events of last week's public expenditure debate are of a kind that we have never seen.

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### Weather forecast and recordings



Today  
Sun rises: 7.2 am  
Sun sets: 7.15 pm  
Moon rises: 7.33 am  
Moon sets: 8.23 pm  
First Quarter: March 27.  
Lighting up: 7.45 pm to 6.29 am.  
High water: London Bridge, 3.43 am, 7.3m (23.9ft); 4.5 pm, 7.4m (24.2ft).  
Low water: London Bridge, 13.6m (44.5ft); 9.51 pm, 13.3m (43.7ft).  
Dover, 12.46 am, 6.8m (22.3ft); 1.3 pm, 6.6m (21.7ft).  
Liverpool, 12.29 am, 9.1m (29.9ft); 1.13 pm, 9.3m (30.7ft).

Pressure will remain high NW of Britain with a NE stream over all districts.  
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:  
London, East Anglia, E, SE, NE England: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain; wind NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 8°C (46°F).  
Central and N England, Midlands: Bright intervals, occasional showers; wind NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

On 21st for tomorrow:  
Wednesday: Mainly dry in the W with sunny periods and temp near normal; moderate cloudy and rather cold in E with showers, chiefly in the SE; overnight frost in places.  
Sea passages: 6 North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel.







WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.  
Aberdeen: c, 11.2; Glasgow: c, 11.2; London: c, 11.2; Manchester: c, 11.2; Newcastle: c, 11.2; Norwich: c, 11.2; Oxford: c, 11.2; Plymouth: c, 11.2; Southampton: c, 11.2; Swansea: c, 11.2; Cardiff: c, 11.2; Belfast: c, 11.2; Dublin: c, 11.2; Cork: c, 11.2; Galway: c, 11.2; Limerick: c, 11.2; Kerry: c, 11.2; Wick: c, 11.2; Sligo: c, 11.2; Donegal: c, 11.2; Londonderry: c, 11.2; Fermanagh: c, 11.2; Tyrone: c, 11.2; Antrim: c, 11.2; Down: c, 11.2; Ulster: c, 11.2; Scotland: c, 11.2; Wales: c, 11.2; Devon: c, 11.2; Cornwall: c, 11.2; Dorset: c, 11.2; Somerset: c, 11.2; Gloucestershire: c, 11.2; Wiltshire: c, 11.2; Hampshire: c, 11.2; Berkshire: c, 11.2; Oxfordshire: c, 11.2; Buckinghamshire: c, 11.2; Bedfordshire: c, 11.2; Hertfordshire: c, 11.2; Essex: c, 11.2; Kent: c, 11.2; Surrey: c, 11.2; Sussex: c, 11.2; Hampshire: c, 11.2; Dorset: c, 11.2; Devon: c, 11.2; Cornwall: c, 11.2; Gloucestershire: c, 11.2; Wiltshire: c, 11.2; Hampshire: c, 11.2; Berkshire: c, 11.2; Oxfordshire: c, 11.2; Buckinghamshire: c, 11.2; 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## HOME NEWS

## Ministers may propose party list system for Europe elections

By Our Political Editor

The Cabinet has made enough progress in approving a White Paper (with green edges) on direct elections to the European Parliament to be reasonably confident of publishing it next week. Drafted by Mr. Rees, the Home Secretary, who carries responsibility for all elections in the United Kingdom, it largely states problems and canvasses solutions.

By all accounts Mr. Rees, who stands closer to the Prime Minister than most other senior ministers, is arguing in Cabinet for the United Kingdom not to incur the odium of being the only country obstructing European elections "tied for May or June next year."

Like everybody else, he does not underestimate the difficulties for the Government and the political parties outside Westminster in keeping to the agreed timetable, but he is not hidebound by first-past-the-post precedents or frightened by the abundant academic calculations that the Labour Party would be virtually extinguished in a bad year by the election to the European Parliament of 81 MPs from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Several senior members of the Cabinet are confident that Labour would be sure of taking Yorkshire, Wales and probably Lancashire for the European MPs.

My impression is that if, after Cabinet discussions, the United Kingdom is to be offered a government plan for direct elections next year, it is likely to take the form of a regional party list system.

Anti-Europeanists would object to that as undemocratic and an affront to United Kingdom electoral practice, but as a once-and-for-all operation it would ensure more equal representation between the parties and help to counter a Conservative domination of the European election in a bad year for Labour.

It would also serve to weaken the Westminster argument for what is called the dual mandate: that is, joint membership of the parliaments at Westminster and in Strasbourg.

One of the party managerial objections to the escape route, however, is that it would probably bring in an entirely new brand of United Kingdom politician, who would tend to diminish Westminster sovereignty and fragment party discipline; and the fact that European MPs are going to be much better paid than those at Westminster raises difficult questions.

Although there have been no official talks between Government and Opposition about the drift of the White Paper, it is fairly clear that the Opposition would prefer initially the list system of election to direct elections next year at all.

It is probably the solution the leaders of both main political parties at Westminster would prefer, at least for the first directly elected European Parliament with a set lifetime of five years. After 1983, it is laid down that there should be a uniform system of election, almost certainly including proportional representation throughout the Nine.

## Parachutist rescued

An RAF helicopter from Leuchars, Fife, yesterday rescued a girl parachutist who had landed 30 feet up a tree near Auchtermuchty, Tayside.

## £200,000 lifeboat

A new £200,000 self-righting lifeboat is due on station in the Humber on Wednesday. The glass-fibre City of Bradford will have a range of 200 miles.

## Budget preview 1: Public opinion and personal tax cuts

## MPs note anger over 'increasing burden'

By Neville Hodgkinson

Social Policy Correspondent

Nearly three years ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer was promising the Labour Party that he would squeeze the rich until the pips squeaked. Now he is planning tax cuts and talking of the need to improve incentives over the whole range of income levels.

The inspiration behind any tax changes in his forthcoming Budget will owe as much to public opinion as to the views of experts on economic efficiency. Labour MPs and party officials over much of Britain have been receiving the clear message that one of the big preoccupations among working people, more intense and potentially more explosive than in previous years, is the ever-growing slice of their wages taken in income tax.

In money terms, everyone is paying on average nearly three times as much as he was four years ago, a rate of increase far exceeding the rise in average earnings.

The anger is seen as a potential threat to Labour's social welfare policies, to the wage restraint sought through the health of the nation. Tax-avoidance has already become a national habit, according to Sir Norman Price, the former chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue.

Social security recipients have become a target of public criticism, generally misplaced. For most of them the system is grossly demanding, because of the multitude of bits and pieces that Parliament has authorized as a substitute for straightfor-

## HOW BRITAIN COMPARES

The latest available marginal percentage rates of income tax payable by a married man with two children under 11 years, in Britain, France, Germany, United States and Japan are:

	Income	Income	Income
	per cent	per cent	per cent
UK	40.75	50	65
France	14.5	16.1	23.2
Germany	24.1	16.2	26
US	30.25	24.35	25
Japan	9.2	13.9	18.3

A=average UK earnings; B=2 x average UK earnings; C=3 x average UK earnings.

Source: Hansard.

estimated £17,045m in 1976-77, an increase of 120 per cent.

Simply to restore the couple person's and married couple's allowances of £735 and £1,085 to their real value at February, 1974, the Chancellor would have to raise them by £275 and £230 respectively.

In the tax year 1964-65, a married man with two children under 11 lost less than a tenth of his pay in income tax and national insurance contributions if he had an income equivalent to average male earnings. Now he loses nearly a quarter.

In 1973-74 he had to start paying tax on his earnings at £1,116 a year; in 1976-77 the threshold has fallen to £963, reckoned at 1973 prices.

Over the same period the proportion of pay lost by a similar family on twice the average earnings rose from 18.9 per cent to nearly a third; on five times the average earnings, from just over a quarter to nearly half; and on 10 times, from 37 per cent to nearly two thirds.

In the past few years the growth in income tax has been accompanied by actual, and sometimes substantial, falls in the real purchasing power of after-tax incomes.

A relatively prosperous retired couple with an investment income of £114 a week in 1973-74, three times the average earnings of that time, paid £40 in income tax, leaving a net income of £74. In 1976-77, the equivalent net income was £195 a week, but the couple would pay £94 in taxes and the net income after tax would give

them a real purchasing power, at 1973 prices, of only £80.

A drastic reduction is seen in the real value of the earnings of the £10,000-a-year man, the manager or top salesman on whom industry depends so heavily. In 1973-74 a single man on three times the average earnings had an income of £114 a week. He paid £31.50 in income tax, leaving him with £82.50. Today the equivalent income is £195, of which £77 goes to tax. That leaves him with £118, of which the real value at 1973 prices is £71, or £11.50 less than the 1973-74 equivalent.

The threshold for the first highest band, calculated at 1973 prices, fell from £6,110 to £3,911 between 1973 and 1976. For the final band, at which the rate becomes 65 per cent, it fell from £21,176 to £12,786.

Linked with the failure to adjust tax thresholds and the piecemeal development of benefits and subsidies is the notorious poverty trap, illustrated in a recent parliamentary reply.

A man with a wife and four children, aged 3, 8, 11 and 16, earning £45 a week, has a net weekly spending power of £45.28 after taxes and benefits on the basis of the assumptions in the table below. That is less than the £48.51 he would have available if he was living on the standard supplementary benefit.

But, more important, if he earns £10 extra a week he gets an increase in spending power of only £1.40; and if he raises himself to average male earnings of £55 a week, he gets only £3.50 of that £20 extra.

Next: Indirect taxes.

£2 billion idea, page 14

## IMPACT OF POVERTY TRAP ON COUPLE WITH FOUR CHILDREN

	Income	Fam	Tax	NI	FIS	Rent	Rent	Rates	Rates	Work	Free	Free	Net
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Earning 545	45.00	+4.50	-2.82	-2.38	+1.50	-3.38	+4.02	-2.18	+1.98	-1.78	+2.25	+0.37	45.28
Earning 555	45.00	+4.50	-2.82	-2.38	+1.50	-3.38	+4.02	-2.18	+1.98	-1.78	+2.25	+0.37	45.28
Earning 565	45.00	+4.50	-2.82	-2.38	+1.50	-3.38	+4.02	-2.18	+1.98	-1.78	+2.25	+0.37	45.28
Receiving Supp all	44.81	+4.50	-	-	-	-3.38	+4.02	-2.18	+1.98	-	+2.25	+0.37	44.67
Receiving Inv ben	44.81	+4.50	-	-	-	-3.38	+4.02	-2.18	+1.98	-	+2.25	+0.37	44.67
Receiving Non-contrib Inv pens	44.81	+4.50	-	-	-	-3.38	+4.02	-2.18	+1.98	-	+2.25	+0.37	44.67
Supp all: Supplementary allowance, Inv ben: Invalidity benefit, Non-contrib Inv pens: non-contributory invalidity pension, Fam: Family allowances, NI: National Insurance contribution, FIS: family income supplement.													

Source: Hansard.

# Police pay: now for the truth.

Some highly misleading figures on the average pay of Britain's policemen and policewomen have recently been issued by the Official Side of the Police Council.

Here are the true facts - based on the Government's own estimates produced by the Home Office.

1. The average weekly pay of a constable is £70. (Not, as has been claimed, £80.)
2. The average weekly pay of all ranks, from constable to chief inspector, is £75.22. (Not, as has been claimed, £90.)
3. To put these figures in perspective; in December 1976, average earnings for all non-manual male workers in Britain were £88.70 - 27% above the constable's average. (This contrasts with the official statement that the average policeman is being paid 28% more than the average of all adult males in Britain.)
4. In fact, the relative position of police officers is probably even less favourable. The above Government estimates are based on the assumption that policemen work between 4 and 5 hours overtime a week; whereas many forces have reduced or even eliminated overtime as an economy measure.

We hope these figures - and the regrettable necessity of correcting official statements to the public - will show why the Police Federation is determined to press its claim for a fair pay increase for police officers.

And we hope that the public - who benefit every day from the skills, commitment and courage of their police - will lend us their support.

PUBLISHED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY THE POLICE FEDERATION,  
WITH FUNDS CONTRIBUTED BY WORKING POLICE OFFICERS.

## Transplant surgeon says doctors 'seem to forget' needs of kidney patients

From John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Cambridge

Doctors, more than the public, need reminding of the needs of kidney patients, when donor organs are available, according to Professor Roy Calne, a leading transplant surgeon and professor of surgery at Cambridge University.

"The public are well ahead of the medical profession in this," Professor Calne said. "Even relatives grieving for a son killed in a motor cycle accident have remembered on the way home that he had a kidney donor card and have got in touch with the hospital."

However, although brain death was accepted and a code of practice for organ removal had been agreed, doctors seemed to forget the needs of patients whose lives would be saved or renewed by a kidney transplant.

It was understandable, Professor Calne said, "It is difficult to care for second-hand. I am involved with my patients, other doctors with theirs."

He was speaking at the launching of a campaign by East Anglia Regional Health

Authority to overcome the shortage of kidneys for transplant. He hopes hospital authorities will agree to appoint a coordinator from his transplant unit to speak to medical staff in other hospitals in the region.

One prominent candidate for such an appointment is Miss Sally Taber, nursing officer in charge of the renal dialysis and transplant unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital, who has worked for Professor Calne for five years.

Miss Taber, who has specialized in renal units, says she could spare about four days a month and would tell doctors and nurses in intensive-care and accident units about the need for donated organs.

The Addenbrooke's unit, where Professor Calne is also having increasing success in transplanting livers, is carrying out only about thirty kidney transplants a year, although sixty could be achieved if there were enough donors.

Results in the campaign, throughout next month, will be closely watched by about fifty units in other areas. His aims are to persuade many more people in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk to carry donor

cards, and to get everyone in the area talking about the need.

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, has said there is a need to double the 600 kidney transplants now performed annually. Although the need is known, Britain is lagging behind.

Sufferers from renal disease will attend meetings and demonstrations of home dialysis apparatus, which can be installed for about £2,600 and which cost half as much as maintaining a patient in hospital.

Typical of their stories is that of Mr Brian Pearmain, who hopes every time there is a telephone call to his home at Wickham Skeith, Suffolk, that it will be from the Cambridge unit offering him a new life.

Three years ago his body rejected a donor kidney and he had to return to two long sessions weekly on a dialysis machine.

"I am 39 and could return to work if I had a transplant," he said. "As it is, if I kick a football for 10 minutes with my four children on the beach, I have to sit down. He commented: "But transplanted patients, they are one telephone call away from a new life."

## Food and farming exports up by £500m last year

The total value of the United Kingdom's exports in agriculture and food in 1976 was £2,778.7m. That was an increase of £507.2m on 1975.

Agriculture, Mar 14

Indicative offences: The number of offences known to the police in England and Wales in 1976 was 2,135,700, of which 215,500, or 10 per cent, were cleared up. The figures (in thousands) for known offences were (1975 figures in brackets):

Sexual offences: 22.2 (23.7), down 6%;

Robbery: 11.5 (11.3), up 1%;

Theft and handling stolen goods: 1,235.7 (1,267.7), up 1%;

Fraud and forgery: 419.9 (423.1), down 3%;

Criminal damage over £20: 83.0 (78.5), up 5%;

Offences: 10.1 (8.4), up 20%;

For offences cleared up, the figures were (1975 figures in brackets):

Sexual offences: 3.8 (3.5), up 8%;

Robbery: 1.3 (1.2), up 8%;

Theft and handling: 521.6 (525.1), down 1%;

Fraud and forgery: 97.5 (85.7), up 14%;

Criminal damage over £20: 13.4 (12.5), up 7%;

Offences: 1.7 (1.6), up 6%;

A periodic digest of information given in parliamentary written replies, with the sources and dates on which they appeared in Hansard.

The sentenced population of Prison Department establishments in England and Wales on June 30 with percentages by age, was:

Age 1973 1974 1975

per cent per cent per cent

17 to 20 22.7 23.7 24.3

21 to 24 20.7 19.8 18.7

25 to 29 19.1 18.1 17.2

30 to 39 20.1 18.8 18.2

40 to 49 9.2 9.2 8.8

50 to 59 8.5 8.7 8.5

The number of persons in Prison Department establishments in England and Wales who on June 30 in each year were serving sentences of five years or more was: 1973, 4,356; 1974, 4,394; 1975, 4,499.

Home Office, Mar 9

Taxation yields: The percentage of total central government tax revenue from direct personal taxation (income tax, surtax and capital gains tax) with, in brackets, the main indirect taxes (Customs and Excise duties, vehicle excise and stamp duties) for the following financial years was: 1970-71 40.0 (34.3); 1971-72 42.8 (36.7); 1972-73 42.6 (36.2); 1973-74 41.6 (36.8); 1974-75 40.8 (36.7); 1975-76 35.5 (36.4).

Treasury, Mar 8

Cancer deaths: The number of persons who died from cancer in England and Wales in the following years (those aged 20 and over) was: 1969, 116,635 (1,128); 1970, 117,076 (1,085); 1971, 118,216 (1,062); 1972, 120,285 (1,079); 1973, 121,000 (1,052); 1974, 123,022 (980); 1975, 123,728 (963).

Social Services, Mar 9

Transport: The loss of ton-miles hauled by British Rail between 1959 and 1976, compared with the railways in Spain, France, West Germany and Italy was (figures in million ton-miles):

Percentage

1960 1976 change

Great Britain 18,650 14,550 -22%

Spain 4,247 7,748 +82%

France 94,035 98,140 +4%

W Germany 34,349 38,317 +11%

Italy 10,248 91,124 +78%

\* Figures for 1974; 1975 not available.

Transport, Mar 9

## Solicitor is York crossword champion

From Edmund Akenhead

Crossword Editor

York

The first regional final of the 1977 Catty Sark/Times National Crossword Championship took place yesterday at the Viking Hotel, York. There were 115 competitors and in completing the four puzzles 15 achieved maximum puzzle points of 124.

The final was accordingly decided on time bonus points, representing the time taken in solving 120 minutes for the four puzzles, less the time taken by each competitor.

The first prize and the title of York champion went to Mr Joseph Ford, a solicitor, a former York champion, with 32 time bonus points. The runner-up, who also won the title of the national final in September, was last year's York champion, Miss Joyce Cansfield, with 31 time bonus points.

Prizes were also presented by Mrs Lindsay Ramsey, on behalf of Catty Sark Scotch whisky, to Mr David Morris and Mr Simon Chillingworth, who came third and fourth, with 79 and 76 time bonus points respectively.

Hi-fi joins the A level course

Lord Mountbatten of Burma spoke in support yesterday of a new A level GCSE examination in electronics which will involve the candidate's own hi-fi equipment. The Associated Examining Board has drawn up the syllabus and a pilot scheme at nine schools and colleges.

As chairman of the National Electronics Research Council, which has sponsored the pilot study, Lord Mountbatten said: "The widest possible encouragement should be given to young men and women to learn of the way electronics plays such a vital role in all our daily activities."

Vaccine talks

MPs, led by Mr Jack Ashley, chairman of the all-party disability group, and parents of children they say have been damaged by whooping cough vaccine are to meet Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, today.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة



## HOME NEWS

## Treasury break-up unlikely while Mr Healey remains

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister is unlikely to split the Treasury while Mr Healey remains Chancellor of the Exchequer. The possibility of Mr Callaghan's dividing it into a Ministry of Finance and a Department of Manpower and Budget has diminished, at least for the time being, since the death of Mr Crosland last month.

Mr Healey was to have transferred from the Foreign Office to the Treasury in the summer. Mr Healey would have exchanged portfolios with him and a reorganisation of Whitehall was a possibility.

Mr Healey has never been an advocate of change for its own sake in departmental arrangements. When such moves were mooted in his days at the Ministry of Defence he was fond of remarking: "You do not take out a man's appendix while he is lifting a grand piano."

The burden on the Chancellor has been greatly eased by the promotion to the Cabinet last month of his number two, Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. An accountant by training, Mr Barnett assists Mr Healey a good deal on taxation as well as expenditure matters.

His Cabinet place has allowed the Chancellor to shed much of the detailed briefing on spending matters that was necessary previously.

Mr Healey would probably argue that breaking up the Treasury would once more add to the Chancellor's workload (one of the primary concerns of Mr Callaghan when he first considered the possibility before Christmas) rather than reduce it further.

The need for consultation between the Chancellor and his ministerial colleagues responsible for public expenditure would be greater and, consequently, more time-consuming. Few in Whitehall are satisfied with the present role of the Civil Service Department, to whose manpower divisions the

spending side of the Treasury would be added in the event of change. Some do argue, however, that cash limits have given the Treasury adequate control over manpower costs.

Another idea floated among the permanent secretaries is that manpower, recruitment, public appointments and honours should be entrusted to a public service commission, modelled on United States, Canadian and Australian practice, and answerable to the Prime Minister. The commission would negotiate on manpower levels with the public expenditure side of the Treasury and the Civil Service Department could be disbanded.

Last year it looked as if a future Conservative government would break up the Treasury. But a report to be circulated to the Shadow Cabinet this week comes out strongly against such a move.

The document reflects the views expressed by Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford, in a letter to *The Times* on March 11 in which he described breaking up the Treasury as "the wrong solution many years too late". Mr Howell was a member of the committee that produced the report under the chairmanship of Mr William Whitelaw, deputy leader of the Conservative Party.

The debate about the size and shape of the Treasury will continue this afternoon before the Select Committee on Expenditure. The first witness, Sir Samuel Goldman, will repeat his long-held view that its unity should be maintained.

The second witness will be Lord Diamond, Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1964-70. In his book, *Public Expenditure in Practice*, published in 1975, he said that drawing a line between spending and the rest of Treasury work was clear and easy. Separation might make expenditure control "a fraction easier" but in general it was not easy to see whether it would be an improvement on present arrangements.

## Growth areas condemned

Planners should take a fresh look at their ideas for the future of south-east England, the Council for the Protection of Rural England suggested yesterday. They should abandon the 11 growth areas designated in 1970 because the expected population and economic growth they were designed for had not materialised.

The council's director, Mr

Christopher Hall, speaking of the council's formal comments on the Review of the Strategic Plan for the South-east, published last October, said that the growth areas not only threatened to consume several thousand acres of food-producing land, but also threatened to bleed the inner areas of London of even more skilled labour and jobs.

## Archbishop praises troops in Ulster

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

In his first St Patrick's Day sermon in Liverpool, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, Mgr Derek Worlock, yesterday praised the courage of British troops in Northern Ireland.

He told a congregation in the Metropolitan Cathedral drawn from the Irish community in Liverpool that the withdrawal of British forces was not the real issue, although the matter would not be solved by military means.

Mgr Worlock came to Liverpool exactly a year ago and has more than once since then been outspoken on Irish issues, contrary to what had become the custom among English Roman Catholic bishops, to leave comment on Irish affairs to the Irish bishops.

He said: "One must admire the bravery and communal spirit of those who undertake military duties in this difficult situation. Withdrawal or reduction of troops is not the real issue."

"Attention must surely be given once again to an attempt to secure by political means some form of shared responsibility, or power sharing. It is at least ironic that in these last months attention has been directed to Scotland and Wales, when surely the most important issue is some form of devolved government in Northern Ireland."

Ceasefire warning: Mr Airey Spokesman, on Northern Ireland, defended the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday and declared that "the Government must not be tricked into another Provisional IRA ceasefire, of which there are again rumours" (Our Political Staff writes).

Speaking in Malvern, he urged the Government to give the RUC the recognition it deserved. "No civilian police force in Western Europe has a more difficult and dangerous task. They neither seek nor get much publicity until accusations are made against them." All complaints must be immediately investigated, he said, "they were, though a large proportion were groundless."

Mr Neave said the policeman in Ulster was a target by day and night.

In the past few years 100 members of the RUC had died, and 3,000 in a force of 5,000 had been injured.

All political parties should support the RUC and encourage Roman Catholics to join.

Letters, page 15



Leonard Bernstein rehearsing for a performance of *Les Noces*, by Stravinsky, to be given by the English Bach Festival Orchestra and Choir at the Festival Hall this evening.

## Windscale objectors' list closes

By Our Science Editor

The list closes today for objectors submitting evidence to the public inquiry into expansion plans for the nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Windscale, Cumbria.

Although the examination under Mr Justice Parker cannot start before mid-June, the money for the scheme was expected to receive approval under the Nuclear Industry Finance Bill seeking provision of £500m last week.

As it was not debated, the proposals for Windscale may be one of the first victims if an election is called after Wednesday's vote in the Commons.

Long-term expenditure schemes for British Nuclear Fuels require £1,500m over the next 10 years. The immediate demand is for more than £200m to expand the Magnox fuel reprocessing plant to remove the waste from the fuel rods from existing nuclear power plants of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Another £40m is for the development of the process to turn long-lived radioactive wastes into glass blocks. A third demand, for about £300m, is for the controversial reprocessing plant to handle oxide fuel from Japan, Spain, Sweden, Germany and other countries that have light water reactors.

## Violent offenders guide sought

By Diana Geddes

Should the protection of the public be a sufficient reason for locking up dangerous offenders for longer periods than could be justified on other penological grounds such as rehabilitation, deterrence or punishment? If so, for how long? To what extent should the dangerous offender's individual human right to freedom be taken into consideration? What, indeed, is a "dangerous" offender?

Those are some of the questions put forward in a consultative document on dangerous offenders, published today, which has been drawn up by a committee of criminological experts chaired by Mrs Jean Floud, principal of Newnham College, Cambridge.

The 11-member committee, which includes Mr Francis Graham, a former Deputy Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, Sir Brian MacKenna, the High Court

judge, and Dr Nigel Walker, Wolfson Professor of Criminology at Cambridge and a member of the Home Secretary's advisory council, was set up by the Howard League for Penal Reform and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders with funds provided by the American Academy of Contemporary Problems, in Columbus, Ohio.

The British committee's consultative document, which has been drawn up after 10 months' work, including interviews with about 50 life-sentence prisoners, is designed to air the general medical, legal, ethical and social aspects of the matter and to stimulate discussion, not to provide any answers.

Copies of the document have been sent to a selection of judges, MPs, academics, individual members of voluntary and professional bodies in the field.

Their replies, and those of any other interested parties,

will be examined and collated before the committee makes its recommendations in its final report, which is expected early next year.

An offender is usually described as dangerous if there is a substantial probability of his committing a further offence involving grave harm, the committee says. But what is "grave harm"? Some might argue, for example, that widespread "mugging", causing minor personal injuries is more serious than domestic violence causing grievous bodily harm.

A serious offence, the committee says, does not make a dangerous offender unless there is a likelihood that it will be repeated despite the usual precautions provided by the law. But by what method is that likelihood to be judged?

*The Dangerous Offender*, a Consultative Document, (Free from The Secretary, Institute of Criminology, 7 West Road, Cambridge).

## Giving more say to parents and teachers

By Mark Jackson, of The Times Educational Supplement

The Inner London Education Authority is to double the representation of parents and teachers on school governing and managing bodies.

The authority, which has been under pressure to increase participation since the William Tyndale school inquiry, has decided it can no longer wait for the recommendations of the Taylor Committee on school government throughout the system.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, a member of ILEA's Labour majority, said during the week-end that the decision, which will mean two parents and two teacher representatives on each body, was one of a number of changes being introduced after criticisms in the inquiry's report. Arrangements have also been made for ILEA members in each division to meet regularly with officers to discuss their local schools.

Mr Livingstone said: "Something has to be done, because the Tyndale affair has shattered many of the channels of informal communication that existed previously. People are afraid now to tell you anything in case they should be forced to justify it publicly years later."

The authority is also taking steps to improve communications and supervision within its administration. A regional inspector is being appointed in each of the 10 divisions.

The changes do much to pre-empt suggestions for reform made in a pamphlet on the William Tyndale School affair, issued by the Conservative Political Office this weekend.

The pamphlet, written by a former member of the staff of the journal of the National Union of Teachers, says that most schools are working satisfactorily and that teachers are entitled to every support, but that local authorities need to be able to detect and correct potential failures in the system. *The Lessons of Tyndale* by Paul Williams (Conservative Political Centre, 40p).

## NHS doctors should be put on salaries, TUC says

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Everyone in the National Health Service, including family doctors, dentists and opticians, should be employed on a salary basis, the Trades Union Congress says.

In its 20,000-word memorandum of evidence to the royal commission on the service,

published today, the TUC accepts that there are considerable difficulties which make an immediate and complete change impossible. But the principle should be established, positive inducement should be offered to effect the change and new staff should be employed on the new basis.

The congress believes that

the medical profession would come to accept that its working conditions would be improved with more clearly defined hours, equitable sharing of work, and better arrangements for providing cover at all times.

One of the strongest arguments put forward for a salaried service is that it would correct the distorted distribution of

general practitioners.

The TUC says it seeks to create a more egalitarian doctor-patient relationship. It does not want to dilute skill or training, or to deny the importance of leadership. But the hierarchical structures which separate health workers and patients weaken the effectiveness of health care.



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## WEST EUROPE

# Heavier polling raises Chirac chances in second French ballot

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, March 20

M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, appeared highly likely to be elected Mayor of Paris as France went to the polls today in the second round of its municipal elections.

Officials reported that in spite of rainy weather 2 per cent more people had voted by midday compared with last week's first ballot.

The second ballot will bring a decision in 64 towns and cities including Lille, Marseilles, Toulouse, Nice and Rennes. In the remaining 158 the outcome was settled by the first ballot, in which the Union of the Left gained 32 towns from the government majority and lost three to it.

On the basis of last Sunday's score, there had been little doubt that the majority would hold the capital—thanks to its belatedly patched-up unity—and that the left would consolidate its advance by conquering another 15 to 20 of the larger towns from the right.

A great deal turned today on the "marginal" voters—the ecologists, the "Jobertists", and even the extreme left in some cases, whose weight tipped the scales in Nice and St Etienne, and in the process decided the fate of several ministers who stood for reelection as mayors.

Traditionally the two-ballot system, a typically French invention, is designed to enable the voters to give free reign to their preferences in the first poll. When the mechanism of withdrawals and eliminations has done its work, they are then able to stop the candidates they oppose in the second ballot. As a result, a political trend is sometimes reversed in the second ballot. This was the case in the parliamentary elections of 1973, when the majority, which had swept the board on the first poll, found itself with a gain of only one parliamentary seat the following week.

This time, the Government majority hoped, without being excessively sanguine about it, that the same would happen in the municipals, and that the

spectacular gains of the left would be checked. But arithmetically, this seemed unlikely, for in most of the remaining larger towns where run-off ballots were being held, the Government majority was defending seats rather than trying to win new ones.

Besides, last Sunday's first ballot has proved that the Communists, allied to the dominant Socialists, no longer frighten away the middle-of-the-road voter, even in such traditional conservative strongholds as the West. And another reason why a reversal of trends was unlikely is that these elections were after all municipal contests not a national test. The voters could vent their discontent with austerity, the Barre plan and the divisions of the majority, in the full knowledge that they were not choosing revolution instead of reform.

They will make this choice in exactly one year's time, in the parliamentary elections of 1978.

One thing, however, is practically ruled out after today's poll. That is the dissolution of Parliament before it has run its full course. However difficult cohabitation will be in the government majority in coming months between Giscardians and Gaullists, it will be preferable to joint suicide at the polls.

Had M. Chirac lost his gamble on Paris, he would have had to compensate for this by making life impossible for the Government. Now he can concentrate on consolidating his position in the majority and to the country from the power base that Paris will give him.

However, the parliamentary election campaign has in fact already begun. M. Jean Jacques Servan-Schreiber, editor-in-chief of the news magazine *L'Express*, goes even further. France, he says, now finds herself again in 1788, the year before the Revolution.

"In 1788", he says, "it was still not too late to save France from the violence and the bloodshed of the Revolution, which succeeded one another for nearly a century."

## Priest ready to sit outside Barcelona jail until last political prisoner is freed

### Father Xirinacs keeps vigil despite amnesty

From William Chislett  
Barcelona, March 20

"I am tired, my nerves are in shreds, and I am dying to take a holiday", said Father Luis Maria Xirinacs in front of Barcelona's Model Prison, where he has been mounting a daily 12-hour vigil for the past 15 months in favour of a total amnesty.

He says the Suarez Government's recently announced extension of its amnesty is in theory a great improvement on previous "amnesties" but he will not give up his vigil until all political prisoners are released, including those condemned for politically motivated crimes of violence.

While we talked, seated on newspapers with our backs against the wall facing the prison where Father Xirinacs says there are 40 political prisoners, passers-by greeted him, others joined him, and a few cursed his presence. Most of the prisoners are alleged members of ETA, the Basque separatist organization, awaiting trial.

Father Xirinacs, a 44-year-old worker priest, began his vigil on Christmas Day, 1975, a month after the death of General Franco. At first police



Father Xirinacs outside Barcelona's Model Prison. Police and right-wingers now leave him alone.

used to pick him up and dump him outside Barcelona. Members of extreme right-wing organizations would frequently insult him and beat him up. Father Xirinacs always returned to the prison and bore the verbal and physical attacks with hardly a murmur of protest. Now the police leave him

alone and the "so-called uncontrollable elements", as Father Xirinacs calls the right-wingers, "have been controlled". The police bother him now only when he takes part in pro-amnesty demonstrations. In the past 15 months he has left his place of vigil only five times, to take part in demonstrations.

While we were talking Josefa Gallud, a friend, joined us. She showed me the 21 stitches in her head put in after riot police hit her with truncheons in a demonstration at Montjuich on March 13. When she joined us she had just come from denouncing the police to magistrates and was carrying a medical certificate.

A little later, the father of one of the prisoners in the Model Prison arrived, anxious to ask Father Xirinacs if he had heard anything about his son, who he had just come from denouncing the police to magistrates and was carrying a medical certificate.

The father comes every day to the prison in the hope that when the text of the amnesty is published, his son will be released.

## 300 hurt in German nuclear protest

From Dan van der Vat  
Bonn, March 20

More than 300 people were injured at the weekend in West Germany's most violent demonstration against nuclear power stations.

The clash came after a peaceful start to a protest by about 12,000 people outside the site of an atomic power plant at Grohnde, near Hameln, Lower Saxony. It was guarded by 5,000 police.

The demonstrators were waving flowers and exchanging jokes with police officers when the atmosphere deteriorated suddenly, with members of extreme left-wing groups armed with wire cutters, grappling

hooks, and even oxy-acetylene equipment, launching an assault on the wire perimeter fence. They tore down long stretches of it and in the ensuing battle 237 officers were injured, 55 needing hospital treatment. A handful are still being detained for further observation.

About 80 demonstrators were hurt, of whom 20 were taken to hospital. The police arrested 26. There have been several much larger demonstrations recently against nuclear power plants, but yesterday's protest was the worst in terms of bitterness and violence.

A minority among the demonstrators, were equipped on a scale matched only by the more extreme demonstrations in Japan in recent years. They

had helmets, goggles, sticks, iron bars, and catapults with which they fired ball bearings at the police.

The majority were peaceful and representative of the genuine and widespread grounds of hostile opinion in West Germany against the Government's commitment to substituting nuclear energy as far as possible for power derived from oil.

Last week's court ruling against the construction of a nuclear power station in southwestern Germany has clearly failed to make the protest movement lower its guard. The problem for the authorities is how to deal with the fanatic fringe seeking to exploit this civic

## New moves to save Italian government

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, March 20

Signor Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, tomorrow begins an intricate operation intended to save his minority Christian Democrat administration, which depends on Communist cooperation.

He is making use of the double-edged weapon of the conditions laid down by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the granting of standby credits.

These conditions are one of a number of issues now coming to a head after a surprisingly tranquil political situation since the election last June which gave the Communists sufficient backing to claim a share in policy-making even if they remained outside the actual Government.

The real drama of the week will be played by the spectacle of Signor Andreotti and the Communist Party leader, Signor Enrico Berlinguer, in a conflict which is as much over their relationships with their own parties as with each other.

Signor Andreotti intends to put before all the leaders of the parties supporting his Government the IMF conditions in the form that he says they were laid down in the draft letter of intent. He maintains that the IMF negotiators insist on approval for two proposals in the Government's plan for curbing labour costs and inflation which will be put before the Senate on Wednesday.

The two points concern the removal of indirect taxation from the threshold agreement tied to the cost of living index, and curbs on wage negotiations at factory level. Both these measures are opposed by the unions and by the Communists.

## Dispute puts future of Danish paper at risk

From Geoffrey Dodd  
Copenhagen, March 20

Doubts are growing in Copenhagen as to whether the 228-year-old *Bertelske Tidende* can make a successful comeback and resume its role as Denmark's leading newspaper. The conflict which has stopped the newspaper's publication entered its eighth week today.

The printing staff insist upon negotiations before returning to work while the management wants production to restart before negotiating on new conditions for the printing staff.

There is no contact between the two sides and the printing staff do not expect the newspaper to publish again until April or even later. Mr. Olaf Poulsen, the general manager of the newspaper, is not prepared to make any guesses on the subject.

The unions are confident that the newspaper will quickly pick up its old status when printing resumes. But Mr. Poulsen refuses to comment on the newspaper's future or give details of a survey and by Gallup recently to determine how much circulation and advertising revenue has been lost so far.

Both the management and the unions have stated repeatedly that they want to restart work but their standpoints have not changed. The unions are expected to be ordered to pay a stiff fine when a labour court rules on the conflict for the second time in the coming week.

The Berlingske deadlock has also stopped the mass circulation newspaper *BT*, the weekly news magazine *Bertelske Weekend* and two popular family magazines *Sønderborg BT* and *Billed-Bladet*. Its foundation was laid in 1960. In the boom years of the 1960s, the time the management signed an agreement with the printing staff to introduce an extra shift to cope with the growing volume of advertising.

This increased the wage bill but avoided the immediate need to buy imported equipment. It also gave printers at Berlingske wages at least £1,000 higher than elsewhere. Competing newspapers had to follow suit and commercial printers had difficulty in keeping staff. The

result was a general increase in pay scales for printing workers.

When the recession came Berlingske found itself overmanned and using outdated and uneconomical printing equipment. The management attempted to revoke the most expensive section of the special house contracts. When publication stopped on January 30, printing wages were about £13,000 a year for some 1,600 hours, about one-third of which was hours paid for but not worked.

If the Berlingske proposals are accepted, Mr. Poulsen says the wage rates will be reduced by about one tenth. Mr. Poulsen also considers the campaign waged by the printing unions to undermine the labour court system as unacceptable.

The unions agree that the conflict is unlawful but they do not intend to change their attitude because they see the labour court as an instrument of class repression.

In 1960 the management came to us and asked us to assist in formulating an agreement on piecework rates to keep up production", Mr. Ove Nielsen, of the Berlingske typographers' chapter, said. "This system has been in operation for 20 years. The management now wants to end it. We cannot see any reason to suffer a wage cutback just because the newspapers are in difficulty."

We do not intend to go back to work until, after we have had negotiations with the management. We have asked for negotiations repeatedly since work stopped on January 30 and while we have not had any positive results so far we will not change our standpoint."

Disputes have been frequent at Berlingske in recent years and the friction increased when the management announced in January that it expected a heavy loss in 1976. To reduce it, the management wanted to change work procedures and hinted that up to 300 of the 1,000 printing staff would probably have to be laid off.

This announcement was not accepted as reasonable by the unions. It set off a campaign of deliberate obstruction in the printing works which caused the management to send the printing staff home.

## Breton bomb blast as seven go on trial

Rennes, March 20.—Breton nationalists today caused a bomb to go off in the electricity board headquarters in Rennes, the Brittany capital, causing serious damage but no injuries.

The outlawed Breton Liberation Front (FLB) claimed responsibility for the blast, which came on the eve of the trial of seven Breton nationalists accused of nationalist outrages.

An FLB message said the building had been attacked because it was "a symbol of French occupation in Brittany." It was the seventh FLB attack this year. Other targets included a television licensing centre, local government buildings and a police car park—*Reuters*.

## Princess Beatrix to visit Japan in May

Tokyo, March 20.—Princess Beatrix of The Netherlands and her husband, Prince Claus, will visit Japan in May, it was announced today.—*Reuters*.

## Football official kidnapped by gang in Turin

Rome, March 20.—Armed men kidnapped the 71-year-old vice-president of Italy's reigning champions, Juventus, in Turin last night, police said today.

The four masked kidnappers forced Signor Giuseppe Navone into a car outside a cinema and drove off at speed. A leading building contractor, he has been Torino's vice-president for 10 years.

Meanwhile, an industrialist kidnapped on February 14 was set free early today after his family reportedly paid 1,000 lire (266,000) ransom. Signor Carlo Colombo was abducted by three masked and armed men in a bar.—*Reuters* and AP.

## Six killed in Turkish railway collision

Istanbul, March 20.—Six people were killed and six injured in a goods train collision early today near Bilecik, about 165 miles south-east of here.

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مكتبة الأصيل



## OVERSEAS

## Karachi under curfew after 35 die in weekend of rioting

From Hassan Akhtar Rawalpindi, March 20

Curfew was reimposed this afternoon for an indefinite period on two districts of Karachi, the mainly industrial labour centres which were the scene of violent rioting and clashes with police yesterday. The curfew was lifted for four hours after midnight today to allow people to do essential shopping and attend to necessary domestic chores.

The Army took control of the west and east districts of Karachi yesterday when the civil administration was unable to cope with the arson and violence. On Friday and Saturday about 35 people were reported dead in police firings and factional killings.

Several deaths were also reported from Hyderabad, 120 miles from Karachi in the interior of Sindh province.

The Government has now arrested most members of the central committee of the Pakistan National Alliance of nine opposition parties which

organized the civil disobedience movement after their defeat in the national elections of March 7. They include Air Marshal Asghar Khan; Professor Ghafur Ahmad, secretary general of the alliance; and Professor Azam Faruqi. Begum Wali Khan was also reported to be arrested but the official list does not include her name. All these opposition leaders won seats in the National Assembly in the elections.

Press reports from Karachi and other troubled centres are reported to be subject to government censorship but the Army, using armoured cars and tanks, is said to have moved into several towns. There have been further reports of attempts to break the curfew restrictions being failed by troops and police have used tear gas in dispersing public demonstrations in different parts of Pakistan.

Educational institutions have been closed for an indefinite period and school and college examinations due this month have been put off.

## US customs seize 300 antique objects

From Norman Hammond San Francisco, March 20

One of the largest hauls of smuggled pre-Columbian American antiquities ever seized by the United States customs has been identified this week in San Francisco. The material is believed to have been stolen from museums and private collections, rather than recently looted from archaeological sites.

More than 300 objects have been seized, mostly pottery vessels and figurines, but also some stone statues, and a number of fakes. It is these forgeries, as well as the fact that some of the pieces have been expertly mended, that suggest robbery from museums rather than looting.

Professor Karen Bruhns, of San Francisco State University, an expert on ancient Central and South American archaeology, who was called in by customs to identify the material, said today: "Much of the collection is of very high quality, and the objects seem to have been specially selected."

The bulk of the material originated in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama, although other objects came from as far apart as Peru, and the west coast of Mexico.

The stone statues are of Nicaraguan and Costa Rican types and three jade necklaces are also believed to be from Costa Rica.

The antiquities were seized in Placerville, northern California, 150 miles north-east of San Francisco, after several days surveillance by customs agents. It is an offence to import archaeological material from a number of countries in Latin America without the United States having treated Customs suspect further offence, as the collection contains the skin of an ocelot, a member of the jaguar family, which, as an endangered species is protected from commercial exploitation.

## Shah pardons 653

Teheran, March 20.—The Shah of Iran has pardoned 653 prisoners, including 91 convicted of anti-state activities, to mark the Persian New Year today.—Reuters.



Dr Castro receives a spear, a traditional African gift to a warrior, during his visit to an agricultural school in Tanzania. President Nyerere is on the right in the white hat.

## Dr Castro's helping hand wins African hearts

From Nicholas Ashford Dar es Salaam, March 20

The day was so hot that the perspiration dripped from the peak of Dr Fidel Castro's forage cap as he spoke to a group of Tanzanian national servicemen and Cuban technicians at an agricultural school.

"We are poor, but Tanzania is poorer", the Cuban Prime Minister told his audience.

"We would like to help you more but we cannot because our resources are preoccupied in Angola."

Dr Castro, dressed in army fatigues with a pistol at his hip, had arrived earlier in the morning at Ruwaa agricultural school to inspect part of Cuba's aid programme to Tanzania.

He chatted with Cuban construction workers and doctors, toured the almost completed building, and then sat down for yet another exhibition of tribal dancing.

Cuba is building three such agricultural schools in Tanzania, reportedly at a cost of \$1,600,000 each. Its aid programme to Tanzania also includes 50 Cuban doctors, a cattle artificial insemination scheme and a projected sugar plantation. Some Western diplomats claim there are 200 Cuban military advisers in the country, although this is denied by the Tanzanians.

Cuba's programme is modest compared with those of many other countries which are helping Tanzania, but it is the one which the Tanzanians appreciate most. "Cuba is a very close friend", an official spokesman said. "It is a small Third World country, but it has done everything possible to aid our development."

Relations between the two countries, which have been cordial for a number of years, were consolidated during a visit to Havana by President Nyerere in 1974. Since then the role of Cuban troops in the Angolan conflict has transcended Dr Castro into a hero in Tanzanian eyes.

Tanzania's relationship with Cuba is markedly different to the one it has with the Soviet Union whose President, Mr

Podgorny, is arriving on Tuesday at the start of an African tour which will also take in Zambia and Mozambique.

Whereas Cuba is portrayed as the poor but honest friend, the Soviet Union is seen as a large, powerful nation whose main interests in this part of the world are in outmanoeuvring the Americans and the Chinese.

While Cuba is prepared to share what little it has, the Soviet Union's aid to Tanzania has so far been almost negligible. "They have given us nothing worth talking about," the official spokesman said.

The fact that Dr Castro and President Podgorny will be visiting southern Africa at the same time has inevitably caused palpitations in Salisbury and Cape Town. Their arrival is seen as the beginning of a communist-backed offensive against the white-ruled regimes in the south.

However, all the indications are that the visits are coincidental. Dr Castro was touring northern Africa and appears to

have decided only at the last minute to travel southwards. Certainly his programme in Tanzania seems to have been organized very hurriedly.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, announced last year that President Podgorny would be visiting southern Africa in early 1977. Significantly, his tour has not been given much advance publicity in Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique.

While in Tanzania President Podgorny is expected to sign agreements increasing the level of Soviet aid.

Lusaka, March 20.—Dr Castro will visit Zambia during his African tour, a government spokesman announced today. Informed sources said the Cuban Prime Minister would have talks with President Kaunda and was likely to meet leaders of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front. Cuban and Zambian flags were flying in the streets of Lusaka today.—Agence France-Press.

Black man's burden, page 14

## Equality for all aim of new party in Pretoria

Cape Town, March 20.—Two opposition political parties last night said they intended to form a new party on the basis of equal rights for all racial groups in South Africa.

A joint declaration was issued by Sir de Villiers Graaff, leader of the United Party, and Mr Theo Gardener, of the tiny Democratic Party. The United Party is the highest opposition group in the House of Assembly.

The declaration's list of priorities includes: The immediate repeal of laws and administrative measures which discriminate against communities on the basis of race and colour; the extension to all citizens of full civil and political rights; the establishment of equal pay for equal work.

Previous plans to unite the white opposition parties in South Africa foundered last month over whether the country should ultimately be ruled by its black majority.

The United and Democratic parties were then involved in talks with the liberal-leaning Progressive Reform Party (PRP). Informed sources said at the time that while the PRP supported a concept of blacks and whites sharing power at all levels, the United Party wanted a built-in guarantee against black majority rule.

The declaration issued last night said: "Politically, all citizens will share a common loyalty to South Africa, have equitable and responsible participation in decision-making and be safeguarded against domination of any group by another group."—Reuters.

Johannesburg, March 20.—The Very Rev. T. S. Farisani, a leading black churchman and former president of the militant Black People's Convention, has been detained by security police, the *Weekend World* newspaper reported today. A dean of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, he was reportedly arrested after a morning church service. Books and files were seized.—Agence France-Press.

## Germans resist US over atom deal

By Pearce Wright Science Correspondent

The West Germany industry is fiercely resisting pressure from the United States to rescind a contract to build a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Brazil as part of an arrangement that also includes construction of a group of nuclear power stations.

The Germans are rejecting accusations that they are putting weapons technology at the disposal of the Brazilians. In return they accuse the Americans of misinterpreting the non-proliferation controls of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

This response to talks between West Germany and the United States is outlined in a briefing document from Karlsruhe, Kreisau, the recently formed trade association of German nuclear firms.

Indeed, a rebuke is offered to the United States for trying to restrict the number of countries with access to nuclear fuel reprocessing.

The Germans argue that countries like Brazil possess all the technical means of developing nuclear weapons on their own if they so wish.

The intention to limit the number of countries with reprocessing installations they consider to be contrary to the aim of the non-proliferation treaty, which allows countries to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. This provision does not exclude the technology for reprocessing.

With 14 states already having reprocessing technology and reprocessing plants of one size or another at their disposal they do not intend to invite any widening of the nuclear weapons race.

## Discipline in school praised by Prince

Accra, March 20.—The Prince of Wales said here that one of the main priorities of a civilized education should be the development of a sense of discipline. "The need for corporate discipline and the restriction of individual liberty by the state would be correspondingly reduced if as many human beings as possible could achieve this self-awareness during their education," he said.

Prince Charles was speaking at a banquet organized by former students of Achimota School to mark its golden jubilee celebration. The Prince arrived in Ghana on Thursday for an eight-day visit. He conferred on Friday with General Acheampong, the Head of State, and later the same day with Achimota School's grand assembly.—Reuters.

## Argentine confirms his bid for Falklands company

From Andrew Tarnowski Buenos Aires, March 20

The leader of a powerful Argentine business group, reported here 17 days ago to be negotiating for the purchase of the Falkland Islands Company, today reiterated that negotiations were under way at the highest company level.

Senior Hector Francisco Capozzolo, aged 54, made the confirmation in an advertisement published in newspapers here. It said that "responsible negotiations at the highest company level, absolutely private," were under way at this moment. But, it added, irresponsible rumours and allegations could endanger success.

Senior Capozzolo heads the Arbol Solo group, which has interests in banks, steel plants, an oil refinery and extensive cattle ranches. Among them

are the former properties of Bovril Argentina, which he bought from Charrington Industrial Holdings, the British group controlling the Falkland Islands Company.

The weekly news magazine *Somos* reported that Señor Capozzolo has recently been in London.

"According to all those consulted it is possible to complete the purchase," the magazine said. "The British Government, obviously, is not going to say yes immediately because of a question of principles. The Shackleton report was disastrous for the pretensions of the Falkland Islands Company to exploit the island's resources eternally."

The first report of Señor Capozzolo's bid, published here on March 3, brought a denial from the company in London.

## Antarctic cooperation threatened

By Marcel Berlins

Antarctica is in danger of losing its enviable status as one of the few areas of the world free from political dispute. The carefully nurtured spirit of international cooperation which has existed until now is in jeopardy, because of the growing awareness that the continent, which is one and a half times the size of Europe, possesses economically exploitable resources.

Last week the 12 countries who signed the Antarctic Treaty of 1959 met in London to prepare for what may be the most important conference on the Antarctic since the treaty came into force. It will be held in September, in London.

The conference, the ninth biennial meeting of the 12 treaty powers, will be held in private, as have all the others, even the agenda being made public. It is curiously, however, that an attempt will be made to reach agreement on

the principles which would govern exploration and exploitation, especially of oil and fishing.

Although no exploration for oil has yet taken place, all the scientific indications point to there being vast offshore fields.

The krill is of even greater potential significance. A tiny, shrimp-like crustacean, it is exceptionally rich in protein. Ten krills have as much protein as 1 lb of steak. The most conservative estimate suggests that at least 50 million tonnes of krill can be fished annually without dangerously depleting the stock. The total catch of all fish in the world in 1974 was only slightly more—about 60 million tonnes.

On lead, the Russians are reported as having found a "mountain" of iron ore in one area, and indications that iron ore exists in others. The presence of other valuable minerals is also likely, according to scientists, and traces of some have been found.

All this has introduced a new dimension into the sensitive relationship between the 12 and has reawakened considerations of territorial jurisdiction.

Seven of the 12 (Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France, Norway, Argentina and Chile) have territorial claims to slices of the Antarctic. The 1959 treaty froze those claims for 30 years. The British, Argentine and Chilean claims overlap to a large extent, and are an obvious source of possible future political conflict.

The other five states (United States, Russia, Japan, South Africa and Belgium) have no claims of their own, and do not recognize those of others.

The resources of Antarctica are attracting growing interest, particularly in the Third World, where it is argued that Antarctica forms part of the "common heritage of mankind" and the benefits from it should be shared by all, with concentration on the poorer countries.

## Australian race driver dies from injuries

Melbourne, March 20.—Max Stewart, an Australian racing driver, died early today from injuries received yesterday at the Calder raceway, a hospital spokesman said.

Stewart suffered head and body injuries when his Lola T400 crashed into the rear of a car driven by Vern Schuppan, another Australian, during practice for today's Formula 5000 race. Schuppan was not hurt but rescue teams took 20 minutes to free Stewart from his wrecked car.

According to race officials, Stewart, a three-time winner of the Australian Grand Prix was driving at about 95 mph and Schuppan was pulling up at the time.—Reuters.

## Record haul of heroin

Penang, March 20.—Malaysian customs officials have seized a record haul of heroin worth about £1,500,000 in a raid on a pineapple plantation. They found three sacks of the drug totalling 132 lbs.—Reuters.

## Hongkong scorns Taiwan plea on refugees

From Our Correspondent Hongkong, March 20

The Hongkong authorities dismiss as futile a telegram to Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, by the Taiwan Free China Relief Association asking him to "stop immediately the return of Chinese refugees to the mainland."

The colony's controversial decision in late 1974 to return forcibly to China illegal immigrants, including the so-called "freedom-swimmers", was made after consultation between Hongkong and Whitehall and was welcomed by Peking. No one here believes there is the slightest prospect of any reversal.

In any event, the new Taiwan approach is regarded as hypocritical because the Chinese Nationalist authorities have always been reluctant to let in illegal immigrants who wished to return to Taiwan after being accepted in Hongkong.

Last year, when Peking released to Hongkong 10 former

Kuomintang generals after long imprisonment in China, most of them expected to proceed to Taiwan to rejoin their families, but all were refused admission. One Nationalist general hanged himself in Hongkong. Others returned sadly to China.

Hongkong still makes exceptions on humanitarian grounds. One last week was for a woman who managed to cross the border to rejoin her husband who had himself entered the colony illegally when Hongkong was still a sanctuary.

Hongkong has returned 2,174 freedom swimmers to China since the ban on illegal immigrants was imposed.

Reciprocating unofficially, China has begun to restrict visas for people wanting to enter Hongkong legally, mostly elderly people, known as "useless mouths", who were becoming a burden on Hongkong's housing and social services. More than 33,000 arrived legally in 1974; 26,000 in 1975, but less than 21,000 last year.

# Companies Act 1976

## Some important dates to remember

The Companies Act 1976 introduces a number of important changes to the law affecting companies.

Some of these provisions are all contained in Sections 24 to 27 and 29 to 31 concerning companies' duties of accounting, reference dates and Section 24 (Contents of Prospectus).

The Registrar will be writing to all companies about notification of these accounting reference dates, enclosing a copy of the form prescribed for this purpose. There is no need to wait for this form.

Enquiries regarding implementation of the Act.

Sections 1 to 11 and 24 to 31: England and Wales: Cardiff 0222 544555 ext. 232  
Scotland: Edinburgh 011 225574  
All other sections: 01-215 550551.

Issued by the Department of Trade

Section	Provision	Effective Date
Sections 24 to 27 and 29 to 31	Companies' duties of accounting, reference dates and Section 24 (Contents of Prospectus)	1 April 1977
Section 28	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
Section 29	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
Section 30	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
Section 31	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
Section 32	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
Section 33	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
Section 34	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
Section 35	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
Section 36	Provision of information to companies	1 April 1977
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## SPORT

Cricket

## Shillingford and Murray in record sixth wicket stand

Georgetown, March 20.—The overall balance of the Shillingford and Murray match was a 99-run victory for the West Indies, who had scored 153 without further loss on the third day of the first Test match here today.

At lunch West Indies had scored 377 for five with Shillingford not out 94, heading for a century in only his second Test, and Murray not out 41. Pakistan scored 194 in their first innings.

The morning's play was a complete contrast to yesterday's struggle for 210 runs as Shillingford and Murray, under instructions to get quick runs, went for their shots.

Shillingford, not out 31 overnight, slammed seven fours and a huge six right out of the ground as the two men put up the 100 partnership in 118 minutes to set a new record for the sixth wicket by West Indies against Pakistan.

They had put on 22 runs, 22 better than Solomon and Kanhai did at Lahore in 1959.

Shillingford was very much the dominant batsman in the match, slamming almost two runs to Murray's one. He brought up his 100 in 165 minutes, scoring 99 in 125 minutes, including a 100 partnership in 118 minutes to set a new record for the sixth wicket by West Indies against Pakistan.

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## Rugby League

## St Helens go back to the top after a struggle

St Helens 13 Workington 7

St Helens returned to the top of first division, but with a weather of weather Workington, despite a big advantage in the scrum, they went ahead in the third minute when Mathias went over in the corner and three minutes later Timblett added a penalty.

Workington hit back with a Wright try and a McCorkquale penalty and early in the second half they went ahead with another penalty. But St Helens just enough extra to put the game round. A try from Hull, which Pimblett converted, and another by Jones ended Workington's hopes.

## Table tennis

## Welshman gives Hongkong player a lesson

Graham Davies, a 28-year-old Welsh international, made a brilliant start in the Commonwealth men's singles table tennis championship in Guernsey yesterday.

Davies, a British champion, beat Lu Veng Vong, a member of Hongkong's gold medal winning team and his country's number one, 21-15, 21-12, 14-21, 21-10.

Then in the second round he defeated Peter McQueen, of Middlesex, 21-11, 21-10, 14-21, 21-10.

It was the Welshman's keen tactical sense that gave him victory over Lu in a thrilling 40-minute match. Slowing the pace at every opportunity, Davies deflected a Hongkong player's rhythm and struck at his back hand with top spin shots whenever he had the chance.

Lu made a brave attempt to save the match from 20-20 in the fourth set, eventually drawing level at 20-20, but Davies responded to the challenge and completed his victory with a smashing forehand which Lu could only return wide.

Davies almost missed the championship because of his difficulties arranging time off from school. Even now, he cannot get permission to leave with the rest of his Welsh colleagues when they go to the world championships at Birmingham next Friday morning. Instead he must travel in the evening.

Walker, England's number five, from Cleveland, put up a fine performance as his seventh seed before eventually losing an exciting match with Schang Shien Chen.

## Golf

## Cambridge find it easy to make Oxford miss boat

By John Woodcock

Cambridge won the University golf match at Royal Portcullis on Saturday by sweeping a margin as Oxford won the Boat Race, the score of 13 to 10 in the 10 singles and level in the other, Oxford's choice of getting anywhere near the water was a disaster.

In 1963 a Cambridge side containing none of the big names of post-war University golf won by 121 matches to 21 in 192 Oxford matches.

Wethered to inspire them, was 12-3, as they did again in 1950, when the Cambridge order contained Eric Martin-Smith, who was to become amateur champion the following year. In 1936 Cambridge, with P. Lucas playing top, also won 12-3. The gallery on Saturday, if such it can be called, contained J. P. Marston and A. A. Duncan, who played in one or other of these matches.

Oxford's only winner this time, in either singles or foursomes, was two up by the 32nd hole in a close match against his opponent, Richard Sharpe. Hurst's father, Oxford's captain in 1948, won all his own three singles against one with a close margin rather than a dis-

## Hockey

## Isca stick men have thin time against Hurst

By Sydney Feislin

Isca Dummortium was the Roman name for Exeter. The hockey players of this club thought that the name was a good one to carry on the back of a track shirt, so they shortened it to Isca. Unfortunately for the visitors the Roman holiday proved too expensive, so they shortened it to Isca. Unfortunately for the visitors the Roman holiday proved too expensive, so they shortened it to Isca.

Both sides scored in the first period, but Isca, through Stephenson, a second-half substitute, from open play and Isca from a short corner converted by Fodderhill. In the 70 minutes of normal time Isca could have won. They had good stick players but could not put the ball in the net. They were prevented from doing so to a great extent by Hurst, who played another great game in goal. St Albans have him in a very strong position.

From the start Isca looked more venturesome. Their first move led to a short corner from which Hurst saved properly from school. Then a shot by Gardiner from the right of the circle whistled past the post with a few seconds to go. It was a pity that the home side was not quite knowing what was happening.

The home side responded to the exhortation from the side-line to push the game on. There was a hint of danger from Asby and Mobbs but all the sharpness in the first half was gone.

Burns, swinging the club well against Hurst, forced steadily ahead. Goodrich having been pulled back by Asby from four up to five to three. Hurst, a first class hockey player, played a first class hockey game, but he had got five of them back by the 70 minutes of normal time.

REGULATIONS: Cambridge names first: W. H. B. (1), J. P. (2), J. M. (3), J. M. (4), J. M. (5), J. M. (6), J. M. (7), J. M. (8), J. M. (9), J. M. (10), J. M. (11), J. M. (12), J. M. (13), J. M. (14), J. M. (15), J. M. (16), J. M. (17), J. M. (18), J. M. (19), J. M. (20), J. M. (21), J. M. (22), J. M. (23), J. M. (24), J. M. (25), J. M. (26), J. M. (27), J. M. (28), J. M. (29), J. M. (30), J. M. (31), J. M. (32), J. M. (33), J. M. (34), J. M. (35), J. M. (36), J. M. (37), J. M. (38), J. M. (39), J. M. (40), J. M. (41), J. M. (42), J. M. (43), J. M. (44), J. M. (45), J. M. (46), J. M. (47), J. M. (48), J. M. (49), J. M. (50), J. M. (51), J. M. (52), J. M. (53), J. M. (54), J. M. (55), J. M. (56), J. M. (57), J. M. (58), J. M. (59), J. M. (60), J. M. (61), J. M. (62), J. M. (63), J. M. (64), J. M. (65), J. M. (66), J. M. (67), J. M. (68), J. M. (69), J. M. (70), J. M. (71), J. M. (72), J. M. (73), J. M. (74), J. M. (75), J. M. (76), J. M. (77), J. M. (78), J. M. (79), J. M. (80), J. M. 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## Local Government, Public &amp; Educational Appointments

## Cleveland County Police Authority

Appointment of  
Assistant Chief Constable

Due to the retirement of one of the Assistant Chief Constables applications are invited from serving police officers for this post with Cleveland Constabulary.

The appointment is subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, the Police Acts and Regulations and, the conditions of service determined from time to time by the Police Authority.

The salary scale is £8,142 x £126 (2) — £8,394 per annum plus a supplement of £312 per annum subject to the total not exceeding £8,500 per annum in accordance with the provisions of the White Paper—Attack on Inflation.

Appropriate rent, uniform and car allowances are paid, together with certain removal expenses.

The application forms, details of allowances and expenses paid and other particulars are available from County Secretary, Municipal Buildings, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, telephone number 0642 248155 (ext. 2015), by whom completed applications should be received by not later than 13th April, 1977.

C. J. A. HARGREAVES, County Secretary

## THE BRITISH COUNCIL

## MEDICAL LIBRARIAN

We are looking for a Librarian to join the small team which runs our Medical Information Service.

The successful applicant will be responsible for running the audio-visual section of our Medical Information Service, for giving advice to overseas engineers, for cataloguing and classification and for bibliographical work.

Candidates must be qualified Librarians and should have experience in a medical or science library. Additional useful qualifications would be a degree and experience of working with non-book materials.

Salary scale, including London Weighting and Pay Supplement, is age-pointed from £2,933 to £3,333 at 25, rising to £4,448. Four weeks' annual leave. Prospects exist for promotion in London or through transfer overseas.

Write quoting G/2/A/2 to Staff Recruitment Department, The British Council, 65 Davies Street, London W1Y 2AA, to whom completed applications and an application form to be returned by 6 April, 1977.

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS  
DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY

Applications are invited for the above post. The work will demand negotiating ability and close liaison with public bodies at policy-making level.

Knowledge and experience of the organisation, salary structures and conditions of universities or other professional and graduate employment will be an advantage. Ability to prepare briefs for committees and address meetings will be necessary.

Salary is £22,000-£24,000 plus London allowance of £450. The appointment will be at a point on the scale according to age and experience. Full details from

The General Secretary (DGS),  
A.U.T.,  
United House,  
1 Fembroke Road,  
London W11 3BJ.

Closing date for receipt of applications 15 April 1977.

University of Kent at  
CanterburyFACULTY OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCETEMPORARY  
LECTURERSHIP

## in interdisciplinary studies

Applications are invited for a temporary Lectureship in the Faculty of Social Science, University of Kent at Canterbury.

The post is for one year, with the possibility of extension for a further year. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the field of interdisciplinary studies.

Salary scale: £22,000-£24,000 plus London allowance of £450. The appointment will be at a point on the scale according to age and experience. Full details from

The General Secretary (DGS),  
A.U.T.,  
United House,  
1 Fembroke Road,  
London W11 3BJ.

Closing date for receipt of applications 15 April 1977.

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## University of Strathclyde

## Applications are invited for

## TWO LECTURESHIPS in the

## FACULTY OF SOCIAL

## SCIENCE

## BUILDING AND NAVAL

## ARCHITECTURE

## from suitably qualified

## architects and

## engineers or scientists with

## appropriate experience in

## marine technology.

The posts involve teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level and encouragement to develop their research interests in the field of marine technology is an important part of the appointment. The successful candidate will be expected to supervise students in the field of marine technology.

Salary scale: £22,000-£24,000 plus London allowance of £450. The appointment will be at a point on the scale according to age and experience. Full details from

The General Secretary (DGS),  
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HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY  
EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART

## Professor of Architecture

Applications are invited for the post of Professor and Head of the Department of Architecture.

Further particulars and application forms are available from:

The Staff Officer,  
Heriot-Watt University,  
Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HX.

to whom completed forms must be returned by 22nd April 1977.

## UER

## NORWICH

## RESEARCH IN

## RIVER ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for the position of Senior Research Associate to conduct research on N.E.R.C. supported project to develop design equations for gravity bed rivers. The post is suitable for someone with a first degree training in engineering or an equivalent background and relevant post graduate experience in river mechanics. Knowledge of sediment transport would be an advantage. The appointment, commencing on 1 October, 1977, is for one year and may be renewed for a further two years. Salary will be on the 14 scale within the range £22,000 to £24,000 per annum plus £500/US.

Further information is available from Dr. R. D. Hey, School of Environmental Science, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7J, U.K., to whom applications should be sent to arrive as soon as possible, but not later than 22 April, 1977.

University of Nottingham

## ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Applications are invited for this appointment which will involve responsibility in the fields of ceremonial, examinations and publications. The appointment will be effective from 1st June 1977 or as soon as possible thereafter and will be within the Administrative Grade II salary scale £5,520 to £6,656 per annum. Further details and forms of application, returnable not later than 7th April 1977 from the Staff Appointments Office, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD. Ref. No. 304.

University of Strathclyde

## LECTURER/SENIOR

## LECTURER IN

## ACCOUNTANCY

Applications are invited from qualified accountants for the above post. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the field of accountancy. The appointment, commencing on 1 October, 1977, is for one year and may be renewed for a further two years. Salary will be on the 14 scale within the range £22,000 to £24,000 per annum plus £500/US.

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University of Nottingham

## PLYMOUTH COLLEGE

## HEADMASTERS

## CONFERENCE SCHOOL

Day and Boarding 660 boys 6th form 170.

Required for September graduate specialist to teach English throughout the School in a strong and successful department. There is additional scope for a master interested in the library or drama. Applications to the Headmaster, Plymouth College, Ford Park, Plymouth PL4 8JL with full details and the names of 2 referees.

University of Cambridge.

## PROFESSORSHIP

## OF MINERALOGY

## AND PETROLOGY

Applications are invited for the above Chair which will involve responsibility in the fields of mineralogy and petrology. The appointment, commencing on 1 October, 1977, is for one year and may be renewed for a further two years. Salary will be on the 14 scale within the range £22,000 to £24,000 per annum plus £500/US.

Further information is available from Dr. R. D. Hey, School of Environmental Science, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7J, U







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EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING



# Why the Chancellor should be thinking of a £2 billion cut in taxes

In the past two years it has been said that unemployment is to be reduced, or that it is of secondary importance anyway. Our view is that unemployment at its present level is a major evil in itself, that the circumstances which have brought it about make inflation worse not better, and that it can be remedied by Government policies.

The reality of unemployment is evident in most parts of the UK except for a few countries around London. School leavers have no sure prospect of their first job; men and women in the middle of their working life become permanently redundant; older people are forced into premature retirement. The total number of people registered as unemployed in Britain is now about 1.4 million people and probably would be some 200,000 higher but for temporary subsidies and job creation schemes.

Of the total on the register well over half a million have been continuously out of work for more than six months. One quarter of a million are under 20 years old. There is no region of the UK where male unemployment averages less than 5 per cent; it is over 8 per cent in Wales and three regions of England, 10 per cent in Scotland and 12 per cent in Northern Ireland.

The cost of recession on this scale is not only to be measured in terms of frustration and loss of income for those out of work or by insecurity for those who are employed. If unemployment had been held down to say three-quarters of a million, the total real national income would be nearly 10 per cent higher than it is; public expenditure cuts would have been unnecessary; industrial capacity and investment would be much higher than they are.

Unemployment has been caused by insufficient foreign demand for British exports and excessive British imports from abroad. These caused the deficit in our bal-

ance of payments which made it impossible to expand home demand and output.

The failure of exports to grow fast enough and the high cost of imports were partly caused by external events. After the rise in world prices of oil and raw materials in 1973 and 1974, a temporary wave of inflation went through the industrial countries. Most other countries (though not the United Kingdom) made the serious mistake of supposing that they could stop the inflation by restrictive fiscal and monetary policies; what they achieved was a slump in world trade and unemployment in their own countries, while unloading a disproportionate share of the collective balance of payments deficit (made necessary by OPEC's surplus) on the developing countries.

But the stagnation in trade was also caused by the continuing relatively poor performance of British industry in world markets. Devaluation of sterling was expected to produce a large increase in exports and reduce unemployment; instead, devaluation has kept consumer prices rising 15 per cent a year or more without a significant export response so far.

Larger and earlier falls in the exchange rate for sterling would have caused inflation to be even worse than it was; they might well have caused a wage response which would also have rendered them ineffective. Our conclusion is that, in accordance with what we have been saying for several years, the present unemployment, and to some extent the present inflation, are the inevitable consequence of not having already introduced import controls, the case for which should have been strengthened by the restrictive financial policies of other industrial countries.

The evidence, analysed in the Cambridge University Policy Review this year and last, does not support the view that inflation has been the

result of excessive growth of the money supply or of excessive public sector deficits, or of excessive growth of demand. In our view inflation is the result of money income claims (in particular wages, taxes, import prices) exceeding the total real income available.

According to this view, inflation has been made worse, not better, by recession since this has reduced output and thereby total real income available for distribution, without reducing income claims by a corresponding amount, if at all. The wage component of inflation has been temporarily reduced by the incomes policy in force since 1975; but the import price component of inflation has been increased by the public sector deficit which has been increased by attempts to cut the PSBR (which meant withdrawal of subsidies and sharp increases in nationalized industry prices).

The pay policy has also created anomalies as serious, or even worse than, those caused by inflation itself. So although the pay policy has generally been adhered to, price inflation has not been reduced much so far; nor, since pay policy has been introduced, has there been a degree to which only now be corrected by large money pay settlements, is inflation likely to be reduced much in the next year or two.

It is to be hoped that reflection will be undertaken by western governments this year, and that this will be accompanied by stabilization of the price of basic materials at a level high enough to secure a sufficient expansion of their supply. If the price of raw materials remains too low, any recovery of world trade risks shortages and a repetition of the 1973-74 crisis.

The cost to industrial countries of somewhat higher prices for raw materials will be small as compared with the resources that could generate a recovery from recession, and trivial as compared with

the income they could gain from sustained industrial growth in future.

But it is unlikely that under existing policies the problem of unemployment in Britain will be solved by world reflection (in particular wages, taxes, import prices) exceeding the total real income available for distribution, without reducing income claims by a corresponding amount, if at all.

In order to achieve any reduction in unemployment, an unusually fast growth of business output is necessary from now on because the labour supply is rising again for demographic reasons, because the Government's special job creation schemes are only temporary, and because public employment is being held down.

Even to keep unemployment constant at its present high level would need a growth rate of 3.4 per cent a year; to get unemployment down well below 1 million probably needs a growth rate of 5 per cent per annum sustained for ten years.

The scale of expansion required is very much larger and more continuous than anything achieved in the past. The major obstacle is that even if the present cost advantage of United Kingdom industry is maintained, our shares of home and world markets are unlikely to be high enough to support the necessary growth of home demand.

In other words, despite rising balance of payments gain from North Sea oil and gas, it seems likely that growth of the British economy at a rate high enough to reduce unemployment will still in future run into balance of payments problems, just as in the past.

This is all the more likely because United Kingdom industries have been damaged by three years of stagnation and low investment, and because other countries may not refrain enough to secure a full recovery of world trade.

In addition to a growth rate too low to reduce unemployment, Britain also has to contend with continuing inflation. In our view it is quite unrealistic to aim at any fast reduction in inflation. In the long term, prosperity and full employment could provide the income necessary to meet claims more fully. Meanwhile, inflation, which took a decade to accelerate from 3 per cent to over 10 per cent, will probably remain at least at 10 per cent for several years.

In these circumstances the theoretical option of further devaluation as a means of improving exports seems impractical. Although North Sea revenues could help to cushion the effect of devaluation on real wages, the shortage of industrial capacity is likely to make devaluation ineffective for many years to come.

The only strategy which could hold the trade deficit in check in a period of fast growth of home demand and output is restriction of imports. This would be much more effective and certain in its timing than devaluation and would not give the same boost to inflation. Although it would cause temporary shortages of various goods, it will permit an investment in industrial growth to which capacity in virtually every sector would eventually be adjusted.

To be fully effective, restrictions of imports should be accompanied by increased public investment in manufacturing and industrial subsidies so that the expansion of capacity starts soon enough and on a sufficient scale.

Whether the trade balance rights itself or has to be put right by import restrictions, fast growth requires an appropriate fiscal policy to generate sufficient home demand. The Government's agreement with the IMF at present commits it to reduce the PSBR to a level which is likely to ensure slow growth and a further rise in unemployment. It is true that the appro-

priate size of the budget deficit (or PSBR) depends critically on the size of the surplus of private income over expenditure and on the rate at which foreign debt is to be repaid. In the past two years the private sector surplus has been larger than we had expected; having underestimated the necessary budget deficit in the past we may be overestimating it now.

But it appears to us that cuts in public expenditure have now gone so far that, unless they are reversed, large tax reductions are needed to stop the PSBR from being too small. By over-reducing the scale of tax cuts in the coming Budget ought to be at the order of £2.2 billion.

There are two dangers for the future. One is that reluctance to introduce trade restrictions will mean an inevitable check to future growth as soon as imports start to rise. The second is that any budgetary restraint will be strictly limited to the amount consistent with a rising balance of payments surplus in order to pay off foreign debt rapidly and accumulate exchange reserves unnecessarily. In one way such policies will seem a soft option. On the foreign side they will be regarded as safe and acceptable.

At home those who remain in employment may get a reasonable increase in real earnings, financed by North Sea oil. But if these conventional policies are followed, Britain is likely to reach the peak of the oil boom in the mid-1980s with unemployment at least for the time being over 10 per cent. The only way to avoid this is to intensify the guerrilla war which could eventually spill over the border into Zambia.

However, Rhodesia is not the only, or even the most important, cause of Zambia's present economic difficulties (although it often proves to be a useful scapegoat). Although the border closure is said to have cost Zambia about £500m, the benefits would probably only be marginal if it were now suddenly to be reopened, and would certainly not lead to immediate transformation of the country's economic outlook.

For a start, Zambia has developed an extensive communication route, notably the Chinese-built Tazara railway to Dar es Salaam, along which virtually all its 700,000 tons of copper exports are now being carried. As Zambia moves away from its dependence on the Chinese it will be anxious to reap as much revenue from this line as possible.

And although some of the traffic that is now being carried on the Tazara line has been switched back through Rhodesia if the border reopened, the volume would probably be substantially lower than before the closure. Furthermore, the reopening of the Victoria Falls bridge for Zambia-bound traffic could bring with it an unwelcome wind of competition for those secondary industries and other commercial operations which have developed in Zambia since the border closure.

Zambia's present difficulties are the result of a number of factors—the general world recession, the closure of the communications link through Rhodesia and Angola, rising defence expenditure, and, most important of all, the ill effects of copper price collapse. These have been compounded by a high degree of mismanagement and general inefficiency in many governmental and para-statal organizations.

Zambia's economy has taken a nose dive since the end of 1974. It is not enough for the Government to act on the basis of information given by firms and to hope that lorry drivers will educate themselves to know whether they have the right documentation. The Government's failure to exercise control over the firm's data is exceptional and ill-considered risks is being ought to, but do not at present, receive from the consular officials.

But this should not be necessary in countries where the normal standards of legal and medical treatment fall considerably below what a British national might expect. It should be the responsibility of the consulate to obtain the right advice or treatment as

## The black nan's burden which helps to keep Zambia in doubt over its future

A theme which recurs with increasing frequency in Zambia's 25-member National Assembly is criticism of President Kaunda's Government for its excessive concern with external matters, particularly Southern Africa, while too little attention is paid to the country's burgeoning domestic problems.

Backbench MPs from Zambia's sole political party, the United National Independence Party (UNIP), who are often remarkably outspoken in their attacks on the Government, have publicly suggested that the country is paying too high a price for its moral principles. Zambia, they say, has been enough for Zimbabwe Rhodesia and it is now time the country concentrated more on its own interests. One of them even suggested that if Kaunda could continue transporting his goods through Rhodesia then Zambia, which closed its border with Rhodesia in 1973, should do the same.

President Kaunda and other Zambian leaders have strongly rejected such suggestions. But as the Cabinet attempts to grapple with the country's mounting economic problems there must be some amongst its members who are troubled by the additional burden of Rhodesia.

It is however a burden which Zambia will have to carry for the foreseeable future. The collapse of Mr Ivo Robert's mission last month destroyed at least for the time being the hope of a negotiated settlement of the talk now in Lusaka is of intensifying the guerrilla war, a war which could eventually spill over the border into Zambia.

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The author is Labour MP for Basildon.

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around 25 per cent and unemployment is rising.

The Government seems to us to know what to do next. In June, 1975, President Kaunda lifted the country on a marked socialist course. His most recent pronouncements seem to indicate that he is swinging back to a more centrist position, partly with the aim of encouraging more foreign investment. For the moment Zambia is still getting enough foreign aid to keep its economy afloat, but it is not clear whether it can do so for long.

A combination of food shortages, soaring prices and fewer jobs inevitably creates feelings of resentment. There are signs that discontent is rising and could get worse. Zambians at all levels, both privately and in public, seem increasingly prepared to criticize the government for its failure to stem the decline.

The degree of discontent should not be exaggerated. The Government is not in danger of being overthrown. The state of emergency which was introduced during the student unrest over Zambia's stance during the Angolan civil war last year, is still in existence and could be used to quell any new outburst.

President Kaunda, although he has his share of magic, still stands head and shoulders above any other political leader. And Zambia, for all its problems, remains remarkably stable. The police state trappings which exist in many other African countries. Critics can still make themselves heard without the fear of being locked up.

The real test of the Government's popularity will come with the elections next year, the second to be held since the country became a one-party state. The Government cannot lose because all those contesting the elections must be UNIP members. But if President Kaunda could be embarrassed by a low poll. All the indications are that the party has failed to attract widespread support and that in some areas, notably the copper belt, it provokes a degree of hostility.

There is now speculation whether President Kaunda, in an attempt to broaden his political support, will turn to his old adversary, Mr Simon Kapwepwe, a former Vice-President of Zambia. Mr Kapwepwe's United Progressive Party (UPP) was banned in 1972 and he was held in detention for a time. Recently talks were held between him and Mr Aaron Mwaanga, the Interior Minister, but they were inconclusive.

The importance of Mr Kapwepwe is that he is the acknowledged leader of the Bemba, one of Zambia's largest tribes. It is the Bemba's claims to be an indigenous people which largely explains UNIP's poor showing on the copper belt, where the tribe's main strength lies. President Kaunda, who has always managed to maintain a delicate tribal balance within his administration, would like to bring the Bemba back into the mainstream of Zambian politics at this stage.

At the same time, President Kaunda is coming under increasing pressure to bring some young blood into his administration. There is a new generation of Zambians who feel he has surrounded himself for too long with loyal but often ineffective colleagues from the early days of independence.

But this new group is itself divided over what course Zambia should take. Some favour a greater degree of free enterprise, but others believe the Marxist style of government best suits Zambia's needs. It is a debate which is likely to intensify during the period until next year's elections.

Nicolas Ashford

Eric Moonman

## The loneliness of the long-distance lorry driver

Ernie Byron drove his lorry on the Middle East run many times. The 10,000-mile round trip was no picnic on £9 a day expenses; the depleted state of his cab unit made him suspicious of his employer's finances; and he knew from other drivers that he would be vulnerable if anything went wrong. But it was a job, and these were increasingly hard to come by in south-east Essex.

And then the accident he dreaded happened. Driving his cab unit through Turkey on his way home from Kuwait, he was negotiating a right-hand bend when he encountered a jeep parked in the middle of the road. His cab unit failed to respond to avoiding action, and he ran into a petrol tanker. The tanker driver was killed and Mr Byron was thrown clear, suffering multiple fractures of an arm and a leg, as well as cuts on the head.

His injuries were attended to in a perfunctory fashion at the nearest state hospital, but no treatment was given to his broken limbs. He managed to get himself moved to an American military hospital in Istanbul but was later removed to the prison hospital, where there was no-one qualified to treat bone injuries. The American doctor was allowed to visit him, but not to treat him, and the injuries have left permanent damage as a result.

After three months in prison he was brought to trial for dangerous driving, found guilty and fined £1,000. During this period his wife sent £6 a

week through the British Consulate to supplement the prison diet, which Mr Byron described as "pig swill". He also faced the possibility of a civilian claim for compensation to the tanker owner and the tanker driver's family of £6,700. Fortunately, his employer, whose firm was now in liquidation, signed an undertaking to pay this money within the next 12 months, for the alternative would have been indefinite jail for Ernie Byron, as the insurance coverage he had taken out on the Turkish border was only worth £161.

Ernie Byron paid his fine out of money raised by his family and friends in Basildon, and then skipped out of Turkey before any further legal proceedings could be instituted. But perhaps worse than the pain of his injuries and the discomfort of the Turkish prison was the fact that no-one seemed to care. The treatment accorded to foreigners who run into difficulties in Middle Eastern countries is well known, yet the British Foreign Office and consular officials apply the same rigid rules as they do elsewhere. It was known that Ernie Byron had no financial resources immediately available (his wife and three children lived on social security benefits while he was in Turkey) but no help with the cost of getting proper medical treatment at the American hospital, or proper food while in prison, or with his fine, even in the form of a loan repayable when he was

home in Britain, was offered. Nor, apparently, were any representations made to discover what had happened to the cash, nearly £200, impounded by the police at the scene of the accident, or to the personal belongings in his wrecked cab—several hundred pounds' worth of camping equipment.

No pressure was put on the Turkish authorities to see that proper medical attention was given, and the Foreign Office apparently viewed without concern the possibility of a British citizen being held in a Turkish prison for anything up to 20 years in circumstances which were only marginally his own fault and which would never have arisen if the government had taken proper responsibility for regulating the activities of British firms operating long-distance haulage abroad.

Ernie Byron's case is not an isolated one. The oil price rises of the past three years have caused a rapid growth in the prosperity of the Middle East, and a consequent rise in exports from Europe to the countries concerned.

The Middle East ports and transport facilities serving them have proved unable to cope with the increased traffic, and exporters have turned increasingly to road haulage for cargoes of all kinds. With loads valued at £100,000 a time, this has been immensely profitable and has attracted a large number of operators who are not properly equipped for the job, as well as some who are positively undesirable.

For example, West Germany, Austria and Yugoslavia impose annual quotas limiting the number of foreign lorries passing through their territories. This quota is inadequate for the amount of traffic generated by the trade expansion in the Middle East, though the Foreign Office and Department of the Environment have had some success in negotiating increases in the British quota.

But in the meantime, some hauliers who were unaware of the legal methods of overcoming the quota limitations, took to using forged permits, and this led to a general distrust of British lorry drivers in the countries concerned.

It was the possible political consequences of such unpopularity which led the Department of the Environment to legislate towards the end of 1975 for the inspection of permits and other necessary documentation before the driver leaves the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.

Absurdly, the British Government has not laid down any requirements for the insurance of motor vehicles taken abroad, and it is here that problems like Ernie Byron's arise. For the smaller firms and the man operating tend to take out such insurance as is required by the law of the country they are visiting, and under Turkish law, this is very low. The government sees their role as limited to "encouraging" visitors to Turkey, or other countries where the same situation applies, to take out much more extensive cover. This is a totally inadequate

response. If forged permits are likely to bring Britain's whole into disrepute, so is under insurance and consequent failure to pay compensation.

A driver backed by the resources of a large and reputable haulage company will be adequately covered, but drivers for smaller firms who will not spend the money risk rough treatment at the hands of Middle Eastern authorities. It would help Britain's image abroad, and would improve the treatment accorded to British drivers, if British law were to establish all British hauliers operating overseas were required to be insured to the same extent as they are when operating in this country, and that they were therefore adequately covered for any damage they might have done. It would require only a minor amendment to the International Road Haulage Permits Act, 1975, to ensure that insurance documentation was also examined.

The involvement of insurance companies in providing cover might in fact provide British lorry drivers with the kind of legal and investigatory assistance abroad which they ought to, but do not at present, receive from the consular officials.

But this should not be necessary in countries where the normal standards of legal and medical treatment fall considerably below what a British national might expect. It should be the responsibility of the consulate to obtain the right advice or treatment as

## The Times Diary

### A bloody tussle over the puddings

Until the weekend after, which gives them yet another excuse, the pudding contest is accompanied by a fair, street carnival with giant pudding-shaped marionettes, and an agricultural show. Pudding championships are held in a large hall in the centre of the show, with the numbered entries, identified only by country, laid out on long trestle tables for the judging. Spectators lean on the rails to watch with an intense appreciative interest only otherwise seen in the paddock at Newmarket.

This year's United Kingdom judges was Mrs T. A. Cornish, a pork butcher and magistrate from Jersey. "I give them points for colour, consistency, flavour and presentation," he explained, pointing out one of the British entries which will be receiving no medals because all its diced pork fat had sunk to the bottom during cooking. "The French entries three years ago.

The puddings are sent by post to Mortagne at least a week before the judging, and are stored. Last year the judges required more than their usual fortitude," said T. A. Cornish. "The refrigerator broke down." Losing competitors suspect that the French hosts leave the foreign entries out in the sun.

Cold, raw black pudding, however lovingly made, is not a thing to be eaten in quantity. The judges nibbled, spat, and cleared the palate between tastings with mineral water and Normandy cider. "Alors," declared a sharp-tongued French judge on seeing the flat cake-shaped baked pudding from Bill Whitefield of Washington, Co. Durham: "C'est un pauvre pudding."

Whitefield was watching from the sidelines, accompanied by Jack Thornley from Chorley, Lancashire—the only other British butcher who took the precaution of bringing his entry to the contest by hand. Both men have an array of cups and medals from previous contests. "Mind you," said Thornley, "I wasn't even allowed to compete in the old days. You could not even eat a British black pudding into France until de Gaulle died."

Whitefield, a retired tortoise fancier, has been all over the world. In Cyprus he called them the caviar of the north of England. And when I went on holiday to Malta last year, the first words I heard when I walked into the hotel were: "I'll bet he hasn't brought any black puddings."

All matters of importance relating to the black puddings are in the hands of a supercilious august body known as the Confédération des Chevaliers du Gout-Boudin, a sort of Boudin Brotherhood whose

Grand Master, or godfather, is Aldonzo Gortari, a local garage proprietor and prominent citizen of the town.

"The first time I met Gortari," he was lying under a Citroën, "he told me that when no one else was listening, 'What does he know about puddings?'"

So I asked Gortari how he could be a pudding authority when he is in fact a garage proprietor? "C'est un amusement," he declared with a magisterial wave of the hand, and walked off.

Rites

The Chevaliers take themselves quite seriously, and have a uniform of scarlet robes trimmed with ermine, a hat like a curly bowl and a coat of arms consisting of crossed griddle and roasting fork. Initiation ceremonies, for those who have served the cause of the boudin well, involving a dubbing on the shoulder with a giant iron fork. Thornley and Whitefield, both members, are entitled to wear a large porcelain medallion round their necks. "If you become a Haut Officier you get one of the size of a dinner plate," they explained.

There is a darker side to the picture, however. During the initiation ceremony each new chevalier takes an oath to eat a piece of black pudding every day for the rest of his life. It is whispered that the vow is not always strictly observed.

Because of the widely differing national characteristics of black puddings, a separate

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ties. "Is a superior product, and much more nutritious. It's got barley, goats, cooked meat, spices, an delicious fat from the loin of the pig." In addition, British puddings are made to be richer on the outside by being dipped in black pudding, a concoction available to be traced.

"Try this," said Whitefield, proffering a morsel of his competition entry which he had sneaked while the judges were conferring in a corner. "See how light it is, and how it catches you on the back of the throat? Nutmeg, that is lovely. Now try this one. See? One bloated in the boiler, the other's baked in the oven. There's nothing like a black pudding baked in the oven, man."

It is difficult to get away from puddings during the three days of the fair. In an adjacent hall families were queuing up to get to the new slices freshly cooked over a charcoal burner. Striver men were chewing their way through nine-inch lengths of pudding housed in a French loaf.

Yesterday the highlight of the proceedings was a contest among local men to see who could eat the greatest length of pudding in the shortest time. The French champion, a former chef, invited guests were seated with what appeared to be a sausage roll; but it was not sausage meat they were filled with.

And any visitor to the festival who ended up in hospital would find that all the using of the French champion's name in the contest was a case of them being in advanced stage of maturity. Had been donated there.

Now your British pudding said the two resident author

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## LIBERALS IN THE LIMELIGHT

It looks increasingly as if the Government's fate on Wednesday evening will depend on its capacity to satisfy the Liberals. In one sense that might not seem too demanding a task. Mr David Steel has been careful not to seek any impossible changes of policy. Indeed, most of his suggestions come into the category of what the Government would do, or would wish to do, anyway in the present parliamentary circumstances. The days of the headlong rush to socialism are over for this Parliament. Most of the damage outlined in the Manifesto has already been done. So if the Government came to an arrangement with the Liberals it would not be forced to give up any measure of consequence on which its heart was set.

Mr Steel has mentioned four specific points: devolution, tax reform, direct elections to the European Parliament and worker participation, though not on the lines of the Bullock report. None of these should give too much difficulty. The Government is already engaged in talks with the other parties in an attempt to secure the necessary basis of agreement on devolution. Many ministers these days share the Liberal anxiety over the burden of direct taxation on incomes. The Government is itself committed to bring in legislation on direct elections to the European Parliament, and the Cabinet has agreed that one of the options to be put forward for public discussion in the White Paper should be proportional representation with a system of regional lists. Worker participation might cause the greatest trouble, because the Government

might find it embarrassing to disentangle itself from the Bullock preference for achieving this through the established union machinery. But the trade union movement is itself by no means united on this and there could be no majority for it in the present House of Commons.

But an arrangement of this political consequence between the Government and the Liberals is not to be obtained simply by placing ticks against a list of policy items. The main problem would not at this time be on the substance of policy but on the form of the agreement. Mr Steel says he wants it to be open and public. It is easy to see why. There are two party advantages which the Liberals might hope to gain from such an accommodation. One is to demonstrate that they can exercise a moderating influence on whoever is in office. They might then be able to claim at a subsequent election that the best way to secure sensible, moderate government in Britain would be to vote for a strong Liberal representation in the Commons. That would be the most persuasive answer to the perennial charge of the wasted vote, but for it to be convincing the Liberals do have to show that they are in fact capable of bringing such pressure to bear. The other advantage the Liberals might hope for—though this would be more long-term and much more uncertain—is possibly to bring nearer that realignment in British politics of which they have dreamed for so long.

The Liberals want, therefore, not only influence, but the public acknowledgment of that influence. There are difficulties about that from the Govern-

ment's point of view, for good reasons and bad. No Government can afford to look as if it is prepared to be humiliated by another party in order to cling to office. Mr Callaghan cannot be expected to say in effect that he will govern in future according to Liberal instructions. But ministers are inhibited not only by a proper regard for their own dignity and authority but also by the ghosts of their left wing and of the party. Anything that savours in any way of a peacetime coalition is regarded in Labour circles as such a mark of mortal sin that ministers shrink from any agreement with another party even to do what they know the logic of their position will force them to do anyway. And there are those on the left whose greatest fear is compromise and who would relish the opportunities that they believe would be brought for them by defeat and a Tory government.

So if any accommodation between the Government and the Liberals is to be devised this week it will require subtlety and sensitivity. If the Liberals seek too much they will end with nothing, except the possibility of throwing the blame for an early election on to the Government. But there is much to be said, if it can be obtained, for an arrangement that would permit the present Government to remain in office for a bit while ensuring that there would be no more extremist measures. That would be preferable to the national interest to an immediate election at this time. But it does depend on an effective assurance from the Government on the moderation of their ways.

## MISSIONARY MARXISM IN AFRICA

The visits of Presidents Castro and Podgorny to their African friends and clients this week show, and are meant to show, the strength and legitimacy of Russia's missionary interest in Africa. They contrast with the disarray of the West after the failure of the Anglo-American effort to present black Africa with an acceptable but peaceful achievement of their ambitions for Rhodesia-Zimbabwe, and vistas (if no more) therewith of change in South Africa itself.

President Podgorny is the personification of Russia's worldwide power, its oceanic navy, its intercontinental nuclear force, its pervasive and determined diplomacy. Such massive power impresses the Africans, and does not yet frighten many of them. Dr Castro is, without his Russian delivery-system, nothing much. The Africans know that. But in many places besides Angola he has for years provided invaluable security and technical services, made palatable by his claim that he too is of their oppressed and exploited Third World. A formidable combination for some years, it is now overt and self-confident.

Russia's method in Africa must be the manipulation of personalities and regimes. It is not the Soviet neocolonialism in Europe backed by armies on frontiers or in occupation. Penetration and control must be through Africa's

internal politics, which lend themselves to it by their opportunism. But Russia must offer to solve local as well as inter-African issues. The destruction of white rule is one, but only one. African regimes also have ambitions against each other, hard to reconcile, particularly in the South and in the Horn.

In Angola Russo-Cuban intervention gave President Neto victory. But now the Russians must deal with the consequences. The fighting in Shaba, formerly Katanga, is part of these. The frontier between Angola and Zaïre runs almost as hot as the frontiers of Ethiopia. Each country harbours subversive forces wishing to overthrow the government of the other. President Mobutu backed the three groups which competed with President Neto's Marxist MPLA, and still keeps them in the field or as potential threats. Simultaneously, President Neto has a counter-force in the exiled Katangan troops of Moïse Tshombe. This group has now been persuaded that the time is ripe to drive against Shaba and its copper and manganese, with Cuban aid. Their object is to spark off a revolt against President Mobutu's unstable regime, reveal the demoralization of his army, and forestall Zaïrean counterplots against Cabinda and its oil.

But what touches Zaïre touches Zambia. The two countries stand together against the pressures of Marxist Angola and Mozambique, in whose control of access to the coast and use of Cuban troops they see a threat to their own independence. President Kaunda will have the opportunity to ask the relevant questions of both his visitors this week, in intervals between discussions on helping the Rhodesian guerrillas. His preoccupation is Rhodesia, but he cannot be happy at seeing Zaïre, however indirectly, the latest victim of Russia's growing say in African affairs. He has shown more sensitivity than most African leaders to the dangers from Africa's weakness and divisions—the growth of puppet regimes, serving non-African interests—in the aftermath of colonialism.

The extent of the threat to Zaïre is not yet clear. The West must be circumspect, as President Carter obviously perceives, in jumping in with military aid. That might serve Russia's interests. But there cannot simply be acquiescence in Cuban intervention directed towards changing African governments, as well as installing and protecting them from their constituents. It may be best to take Zaïre's advice on how to make its counter-productive. The West has few cards at the moment and must play with care.

economic strategy, or more exactly its package of economic shifts and incentives.

Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet are therefore justified in creating what Mr Callaghan has called the "moment of truth", even on a basis of mere Westminster procedure: because the worst eating into the heart of the Labour Party itself, the day a fundamental falsity is put to the test. What kind of party is it, and what kind of Government can it produce? Does it pursue "class" interests, or the long-term national interest, or either? It is the moment of truth for the Labour Party itself, the day a fundamental falsity is put to the test. What kind of party is it, and what kind of Government can it produce? Does it pursue "class" interests, or the long-term national interest, or either?

Those are now questions that have to be answered in the next few hours by Mr Steel and the Liberals, and by Mr Enoch Powell and such Ulster Unionist MPs as he may influence. Or even by the three Plaid Cymru MPs: Mr Price, a former Cabinet minister now discarded by his constituency party; and Mr Tomney, the dismissed Labour MP for Hammersmith, North. It is the moment of truth for all of them.

I do not pretend to know what the outcome in Wednesday's division will be. I should not care, though, to be in Mr Steel's shoes as he makes a fateful decision for the Liberal Party. He has made the mistake of openly stating his terms for a deal with Mr Callaghan, and he is aware that no Prime Minister could publicly accept it. It is not valid, as Mr Steel has stated or implied, that there is a consensus in or outside Westminster for Scottish and Welsh devolution, or for proportional representation in our voting system. The Government itself has accepted that the devolution Bill cannot yet be carried through Parliament; the weakness of the House of Commons exploited, since March 1974, by the Government shows that a multiplicity of parties in the Commons can create governmental paralysis as well as representational justice.

Yet we are probably in a situation when by procedural gamesmanship Mr Callaghan and Mrs Thatcher have provided an opportunity for the people to decide when the long-discussed reorganisation of political forces, at least inside Westminster, should at last begin to take place. I hope for little, yet I could be surprised.

## Cannabis and the law

From Lady Wootton of Abinger  
Sir, Why, I wonder, has Mr Ronald Butcher chosen this moment (March 17) to give thanks to Mr Callaghan for his rejection, when Home Secretary eight years ago, of the allegedly pernicious recommendations of what has become known as the Wootton Committee on Cannabis?

Is Mr Butcher unaware of all that has happened since then? It may still be early days to be confident that prolonged or excessive use of cannabis (as of any other drug) may carry risks comparable to those which have been found to be associated with tobacco. But Professor J. P. D. Graham's recently published collection of papers by 12 eminent contributors shows that even on this point the flood of new research does not all point in the same direction. Meanwhile there has been a great change in the climate of Western opinion about the moderate use of cannabis and the proper scope of legislative action in relation to this.

Already in the United States, eight states have taken steps to "decriminalize" the possession of cannabis, while at least a score of others are contemplating similar action: and now we hear that President Carter's administration is giving federal blessing to this policy. Other governments in Canada, in Europe, and in Australia are following the same path.

But most remarkable of all is Mr Butcher's failure to notice that Mr Callaghan himself is moving with the times. The Government of which he is the head has just presented to Parliament a Criminal Law Bill which would halve, by a reduction from six months to three, the maximum sentence which a magistrate's court can impose for possession of cannabis. Contrary to what is widely believed, neither my committee nor I have ever advocated the legalization of cannabis. But the Government's new proposal would bring the penalty for summary conviction of possession actually below the level recommended by the Intoxicant Wootton Committee.

Yours, etc.,  
WOOTTON OF ABINGER,  
House of Lords,  
March 17.

## Arabs at universities

From Mr Antony Sherwood  
Sir, Mr Morrell has put his finger on some very real difficulties in the way of Arab students coming to study in Britain (letter, March 16). But the picture is not entirely gloomy.

The British Council, which has long standing interests in educational cooperation in the Gulf, has over the past two or three years been in touch with a large number of British educational institutions, most of whom recognize the difficulties and are doing their best to overcome them. An increasing number of courses are being devised to reflect the known needs of countries such as the UAE, and the British Council has provided, and will continue to provide, the UAE Ministry of Education with details of these.

Offers of training in Britain are usually designed to enable UAE students to enter the system without special preparatory training, but where this is necessary bridging courses can be designed to provide both English language training and the necessary academic qualifications.

Where courses already exist, the published fees for overseas students are not high, and the Government is prepared to be specially set up to meet the needs of a particular group of students, the full economic costs have to be charged and inevitably it is high. Perhaps some private institutions try to make excessive profits out of this situation, but fortunately they are few.

Mr Morrell is right to stress the genuine friendship that exists in the UAE (and other Gulf states) towards Britain, particularly in the educational field, and the need to safeguard against the loss of this friendship through undue inflexibility. On the other hand, the Joint Economic Committee meeting held in Abu Dhabi in December, and the British Council is now following up the opportunities for increasing cooperation revealed on that occasion.

Yours ever,  
ANTONY SHERWOOD,  
Head, Africa and Middle East Division,  
The British Council,  
10 Spring Gardens, SW1,  
March 17.

## Encouraging literature

From the Director of the National Book League

Sir, Your readers may not be aware that Sweden does already have a scheme in operation very similar to that proposed by Tom Rosenthal in his article in *The Times* of February 26.

The Swedish Government subsidises the publication of serious novels by contributing to their cost of production. The subsidy is dependent on advance orders being placed by public libraries, of which there must be a minimum of 40 copies by no less than 24 libraries. This involves having official selection committees and the like. It also means that readers can influence the choice of books by their local demands on the libraries.

The other side of this subsidy, which approaches very nearly to Mr Rosenthal's proposal, is that the publishers have to supply 1,250 free copies of each title subsidised to public libraries.

This form of subsidy makes sure both that the worth while book can still be published and that it will secure an adequate readership. It is worth adding that a not too dissimilar scheme operates in Norway.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTYN GOFF,  
Director, National Book League,  
1 Albemarle Street, W1,  
March 18.

## Prosecution of Ulster terrorists

From Mr Edward Hay

Sir, Mr Airey Neave is right to say (March 17) that "many big fish among the terrorists in Northern Ireland swim around with impunity". Certainly, when I served in Ulster, under a Conservative Government, that was the case.

But the fact remains that it is extremely difficult to frame a law which on the one hand will bring forth a guilty verdict in a court of law, and on the other hand, will not trespass on the rights and freedoms of the great majority of law-abiding citizens. I would hazard a guess that Mr Whitehead, when Secretary of State, thought about the possibilities of such a law but rejected it on the grounds of impracticability.

For Ulster will only return to normality if the due processes of fair and reasonable law are seen to be at work. Interment without trial was a mistake, as most people, with hindsight, will now acknowledge. It was a mistake largely because it brought the IRA considerable support in the Catholic ghettos but also because it was thought by the majority of the population to be unfair.

Therefore, at this critical time, when the IRA look to be losing their economic support from foreign countries, it would be unwise to give them the slightest banner to wave in the supposed cause of freedom. Your obedient servant,  
EDWARD HAY,  
London, SW1,  
March 17.

## BBC's Irish troubles

From Mr John Biggs-Davison, MP for Epping Forest (Conservative)

Sir, Following your balanced defence of the BBC (March 16), I would praise its determination to present facts and expose injustice without fear or favour. To that may be ascribed much of its worldwide prestige.

But a Corporation that calls itself "British" is under Royal Charter cannot stand superbly aloof from a life or death struggle not

between rival communities or different opinions but between the defenders and destroyers of our democracy—between revolutionaries who, invariably rejected by the universal and secret ballot, turn to terrorism and all those who abide by constitutional process.

The few cases of military or police brutality must be investigated and punished. The Security Forces should not, and do not, lower themselves to the level of the terrorists. But one must not forget that the exploitation of the media of mass information has long been a main weapon, skillfully used, of the physical force republicans. Broadcasters must therefore be on their guard lest they be conned.

Indeed, a BBC concerned for justice, objectivity and the public interest would present more vividly and more often the chivalry, cold courage and exertions which are routine in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and RUC Reserve and the Security Forces as a whole. BBC viewers and listeners are among those whom they protect with their service and with their lives.

If film making on location with actual personnel be too risky, a fictionalized series about the RUC could be both informative and entertaining. The public appetite for police thrillers need not always be gratified by noisy, trashy features imported for dollars.  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BIGGS-DAVISON,  
House of Commons,  
March 16.

From Mr F. E. McWilliam

Sir, I have the greatest respect for the integrity of the BBC, yet with regard to Ulster I can't help thinking of the priest who, noted by Honor Tracey, who exhorted his flock to keep to the straight and narrow path between good and evil.  
Yours faithfully,  
F. E. MCWILLIAM,  
84 Holland Villas Road, W.1,  
March 17.

## President Amin

From Sir Walter Coult

Sir, I would like to support Miss Elizabeth Prink's letter in your edition of March 17, on the subject of President Amin. On Tuesday June 3, 1975, I asked, as a former Governor of Uganda, to see the Foreign Secretary (then Mr Callaghan) about the position of the Ugandan refugees in Uganda, with particular reference to certain refugees in this country and elsewhere and also because too many of my good African Ugandan friends, officials and Ministers, were by then dead. I saw an Under Minister who informed me nothing could be done.

Something can be done if we all make our voice heard and our name very clear. The Kikuyu in Kenya have a proverb: *Kamungu Kioga Ndizi* which very loosely translated means "the little body of men can more easily lift the heavy load". Communal rather than individual effort is necessary. I sympathise with the Prime Minister who was sent by his predecessor to Uganda to plead with Amin for the life

of one of our own citizens. The Prime Minister's personal position can now only be much more difficult.

Two lines of action seem to me necessary.

(1) As regards the Commonwealth Conference everyone who really so believes in human rights, should make it abundantly clear that not on any account do we wish this man to put his foot in Great Britain and all the Commonwealth Prime Ministers particularly the Africans should speak from the heart and no diplomacy on this occasion and say they do not want him to attend.

(2) Every effort must be made by our Government through pressure from us to make the United Nations act. If that body is prepared to do its duty, unlike its Human Rights Commission, then it should cease to indulge in double talk and carry out the intervention which the free world obviously wants and justice demands.

Yours faithfully,  
WALTER COULT,  
6 Stanmore Gardens,  
Hammersmith,  
Berkshire,  
March 18.

## Exit the cream cracker

From Mr Derrick R. Hornby

Sir, We are sorry that in your third issue of March 17, your "Cream Cracker" of March 17, you feel it necessary to part from an "old friend" on an issue which is of importance to our other friends, the consumers. You seem to have failed entirely to make an assessment of the consequences of the United Kingdom accepting the draft regulation to which you have now given your unqualified support.

Quite rightly, you say that one of the main purposes of this proposed regulation will be to erode the butter and skimmed milk powder mountains in the EEC. However, as a matter of principle the Food Manufacturers' Federation does not believe that the method of disposing of surpluses should be to force food manufacturers to use these surpluses to replace other products to the detriment of the producer and consumers of those other products. The only solution to the surplus problem is by cutting the return to that sector which creates the surplus.

It is ironic that, contrary to your belief, this proposed regulation will, in fact, increase, not reduce, the EEC dairy mountains. A recent survey carried out by the Food Manufacturers' Federation shows that, if this proposed regulation were to be implemented, liquid milk consumption would be reduced by about 30 million gallons.

Not only, therefore, is the proposed regulation counter-productive, but it would reduce the choice of products available to the United Kingdom household since a number of products containing vegetable fats would have to be withdrawn from the market. Not only would the proposed regulation have these effects, but it could put approximately 6,500 people out of work in the industry. We cannot believe that your editorial comments support these results.

Could we suggest that, as a parallel to this particular issue, you consider whether your newspaper would like a regulation which forces it to change its title—which I understand you have used for some years—and change the composition of the newspaper in order to use less black ink in favour of red ink of which there is a surplus.  
Yours truly,  
DERICK R. HORNBY,  
President, FME Conference,  
1-2 Castle Lane,  
Buckingham Gate, SW1,  
March 17.

From Mr R. W. Lawes

Sir, Your leading article dealing with the EEC exclusive use of Milk draft regulation (March 17) overlooks the basic principle that the customer has the right to choose whether they want foods made with vegetable fat or foods made with animal fat.

Labelling regulations already exist in the United Kingdom to ensure that the buyer is not misled, but this regulation is designed to force producers and economic food products off the market. It is a mistake to believe that the farming interest and the EEC budget would benefit.

As managing director of a food manufacturing business that would be caught by this regulation, I know that the regulation would result in more milk powder being sold to the EEC Intervention Board—not less—and the milk powder mountain would be increased. The taxpayer and the consumer will ultimately have to pay the bill.

Yours faithfully,  
R. W. LAWES,  
Managing Director,  
L. E. Pritchett & Co. Ltd.,  
Comelle House,  
Blackhorse Road,  
Deptford, SE8,  
March 17.

From Mr Kenneth Werrell

Sir, Butter-Scotch really is made with butter (Mrs James' letter on March 18) even if it does not contain Scotch.

Likewise Chocolate Tea-Cakes, at least are made with real chocolate, if not Tea-Cakes.

But surely this is better than the disappointment of neither Cream nor Crackers?

Yours truly,  
KENNETH WERRELL,  
Managing Director, "The Butter-Scotch people",  
Callard and Bowser, Nuttall Ltd.,  
Box 35,  
Silverdale Road,  
Hayes,  
March 18.

## Housing costs

From Mr Hugh Rossi, MP for Hornsey (Conservative)

Sir, In your report "Housing Corporation replies to Charges" (March 12), you quote that it "had dropped 27 schemes comprising 2,807 homes at a total cost of nearly £34m. After allowing for some £4m in fees, interest charges and reductions in land values the net savings would be some £30m."

Is this not a somewhat curious use of the word "savings" but typical of the abuse of language to be found in official apologies? A more valid presentation would assert that an enforced reduction of £30m in capital expenditure will result in 2,807 new homes being lost, and £4m of public money thrown away. One does not level any criticism against the Housing Corporation for this. It faces enormous difficulty in the savage cut back of £57m in its funds by a Government which prefers to maintain council rent subsidies at a level of £1,500m in the year—for rather obvious electoral reasons.  
Yours faithfully,  
HUGH ROSSI,  
House of Commons,  
March 17.

## Oxford women's colleges

From the Principal of Somerville College

Sir, Diana Geddes's article in your issue of March 15 contained some arbitrary assumptions to which I hope that you will allow me to draw attention, since they might otherwise harm the women's colleges at Oxford.

I have no right to speak for the other women's colleges, but Somerville at least does not fear second-class status. Somerville, which celebrates its centenary in 1979, intends to be even more successful in its second hundred years than in its first, and these have not been undistinguished.

The article suggests that it is based on certain statistical information which as yet does not exist. It says that the best women applicants are being creamed off by the mixed colleges. Except for medicine and mathematics there is no uniform system of marking the papers of entrance candidates as a whole; hence there is no possibility of assessing accurately the relative standard of their performance. Each college has its own system of grading.

Women were admitted to the mixed colleges only in 1974, and will not graduate until later this year. It is therefore not yet possible to compare their degree classes (by no means, incidentally, the criteria for selection for medicine and mathematics) with those of their contemporaries at the women's colleges. Given that the number of places at the women's colleges has grown by only slightly more than 10 per cent over the past four years, one would expect to find an increase in applications from women to be larger at the mixed colleges, which took no women before 1974, than at the women's, the size of which has been relatively stable.

We are told that the "mixed colleges can afford to be highly selective with their female candidates" (despite the Sex Discrimination Act?). For the past two years only 30 per cent of applicants have been awarded places, whereas the women's colleges awarded places in 1976 to 43 per cent of their applicants as compared with 36 per cent in 1975. This means, it is claimed, that the women's colleges are being forced to take candidates of lower quality.

The interpretation of these figures is far more complex than the above suggests. The 30 per cent of successful women applicants to the mixed colleges is weighted heavily by the lower percentage of acceptance in a few subjects in which there is an excess of good candidates. The possibility that the women's colleges may be accepting a higher percentage of their candidates not only because the range of subjects for which they are applying is greater, but also because the applicants are of higher quality is entirely overlooked.

The experiment of having mixed colleges at Oxford has unquestionably been a success. Provided the number of such colleges is increased gradually there is good reason to expect that the present growth in the number of women applicants will persist so that there will continue to be enough good women for both mixed and women's colleges. We are told that the number of women who will prefer a women's college is unlikely ever to be enough to have much effect. This is true.

The women's colleges have their own attractions. Well-stocked libraries were mentioned in the article amongst the advantages of the older men's colleges. Somerville, and it is not for me to speak for our fellow women's colleges, has one of the best libraries in Oxford. The college's prestige and hopes for the future have already been indicated.

Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA CRAIG,  
Principal, Somerville College,  
Oxford,  
March 17.

## "Libertine" trial

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, Having been in court (as a journalist rather than a lawyer) throughout the hearing of evidence in the *Libertine* trial, I write to defend Judge Sime against Mrs Whitehouse's attack (Letters, March 17). The learned Judge ruled impeccably. If I may say so with respect, on what evidence was admissible in the light of the House of Lords ruling to which Mrs Whitehouse refers. Mr John Mortimer, for the defence, was equally impeccable in his handling of the limitations placed on him by that ruling.

He admitted that it could no longer be argued that pornography was therapeutic, "like taking a pill". The learned Judge, observing that this was "nearly put", went on to rule that the "science of learning" head of the public good defence allowed people to be shown "that there are certain vices", but not "from the operative point of view". He warned that there must be no question of "teaching a new dog new tricks".

What Mrs Whitehouse thinks is the "true public good" is not necessarily what people in general, as represented by juries, think it is. The *Libertine* jury acquitted on all counts. They did this unanimously, after a retirement of only fifteen minutes. Would the members of the jury have acted thus if any of them had really thought *Libertine* reprehensible?

At the end of her letter Mrs Whitehouse misquotes a remark made at the trial by Mr Mortimer. I know what he really said, because I wrote it down. He told the jury quite rightly, that although the prosecutor had alleged that *Libertine* was "filth", and had used other similar epithets, that had nothing to do with the case for the simple reason that the only words that mattered were the words in the statutory definition of obscenity, namely "deprave and corrupt".

Yours sincerely,  
FRANCIS BENNION,  
Flat 4,  
24 St. Ann's,  
East Sussex,  
March 17.

ack man's  
hich helps  
Zambia  
over its future



## A Times Profile

## Herman Kahn

## The one-man think tank who puts his faith in the future



It is easy to see why Herman Kahn has taken to exploring the future of mankind. It is simply that he has no narrower subject would give him enough material to which to apply his vast intellectual energy.

Kahn is an intellectual— which is rather like saying that he has no interest in ideas for his own sake. He thinks continually and at a furious pace, but he is always thinking about something, and something that is happening, or might happen. His motto might be Causa's injunction to Brucis: "Till then, think of the world."

He first achieved fame as a nuclear strategist. An alumnus of the Rand Corporation, the biggest and most famous of the American think tanks, he was the first nuclear strategist to become a public figure, as much because of his flamboyant style of presentation as the solid substance of his thought.

He is still a public figure, and he lectures to distinguished and influential public and private audiences both in America and in countries he visits, including this one. Nowadays, his subject is usually the future.

His first book, *On Thermonuclear War*, published in 1960, had considerable influence, as did his later writing, on the subject aimed at a more popular audience. He introduced a new layer of the well-informed public to thinking about nuclear deterrence and war beyond the concept of pushing the Apocalypse button. He also introduced "escalation" into the language of politics and social action, and some people might think he has a lot to answer for.

Ten years ago, he wrote *The Year 2000*, and now he has followed this with *The Next 200 Years*. He had collaborators on each of these works, but the guiding hand and style are clearly his. The collaborators are all members of the Hudson Institute, of which he is the director.

This time, he has introduced a wider public to the idea that intelligent, long-range forecast-

ing can be useful even in a world of uncertainties. He introduced them to such devices as "surprise-free projections" and "causal variations" on these.

His books on the future are widely read among the kind of intellectuals who advise governments and industry, and they have helped to stimulate other studies. Some business corporations are now interested in having in their files for reference an outline of several possible future environments in which they might be operating, identifying trigger points which will determine the way things will go.

One reason why industrialists listen when Herman Kahn lectures to them may be that they like to hear what he tells them.

There are two broad schools of thought about the future. Kahn is among the optimists, those who argue that the economic doomsters are wrong and the world is not going to run out of food or natural resources, or choke itself to death. He believes that continued economic growth is not only possible but desirable.

"Your view on this subject determines your whole attitude to the world," he said recently, and went on with a characteristic metaphor. "If you're one of those who believe that the world is heading for catastrophe, and that a few rich countries are using up most of the world's available resources, then your picture of the world is something like this: there are 15 people on a raft, 14 of them are dying of thirst, and the fifteenth has a barrel of water, and he takes a bath in it."

His justification for doing so is that he owns it. And his only worry is that he may not have enough water to take a bath tomorrow.

"If you believe that, then the individual who works hard and contributes to our modern industrial society is abetting a criminal enterprise, and the drop-out is more or less doing God's work."

"And if this picture is right, then it justifies terrorism

against the West. After all, what the terrorist is fighting against is the worst crime in history. In the numbers of people who will starve to death, it makes the murder of 6,000,000 Jews pale into insignificance by comparison. And I think a lot of people will justify terrorism in this way. This is one of the things that's happening. For a lot of people, terrorist violence is becoming legitimized."

His own picture of population and resources is a very different one. He has constructed a chart of world history over past and future millennia in which we are right in the middle of a 400-year period during which the world passes from a pre-industrial poverty to a post-industrial culture of affluence. It also envisages the population growth tapering off.

"I'm not saying," he explains, "that there won't be shortages of some things, that we won't have to make changes, and that there won't be problems. I'm saying that with reasonably good management, the world can get through without catastrophe."

But what does he mean by "reasonably good management"? The kind of international cooperation and good sense that we've all been waiting for a thousand years?

He grins and corrects himself. "No, no, I mean reasonably bad management. The way things have been run in the past few years."

He thinks the anti-growth view stems partly from a misunderstanding of certain signs, partly from guilt feelings among affluent liberals, partly from a failure of nerve on the part of the West. These last two points have cropped up increasingly in his writing and his conversation in the past few years, so that he sometimes sounds like a Middle America conservative.

Herman Kahn is a cheerful, zesty, friendly man with round dark eyes and an enormous

scientists and professional intellectuals, and he shares many of their concerns. He likes gadgets, and his office and home are full of them.

Kahn was educated as a physicist, and he still employs a physicist's precision to qualify his observations. He will say in conversation, "I believe that, but not very intensely. I wouldn't want to argue it before a hostile audience." Or, "We're friends, but we're armed friends, you know? There are some people with whom you're discussing friends."

When he writes or talks about things like resources and population, statistics come pouring out. But ideas and concepts are never far away from the tables

of figures. Often, he organizes them into lists.

His most famous list was the 44-rung escalation ladder, which went all the way from Ostensible Crisis, rung 1, through diplomatic and economic measures to Dramatic Military Confrontation, rung 9, up to various kinds of nuclear exchange.

Nowadays, his lists tend to be more eclectic. For instance, *Some Sources of New Agricultural Land: Long-term Urban Trends Which Should Not Change*. Significantly, *Some Likely Global Economic Groupings in the Year 2000*. *Some Key Chinese Internal Problems*. *Some Mixed Blessings of Progress*.

This last list illustrates his disconcerting manner of handling technology, the social environment and man's inner life in the same brisk, comprehensive manner. The mixed blessings include: "1. defunctionalization—a partial but increasing loss of meaning of traditional activities through the development of short cuts to gratification, 2. accumulation of weapons of mass destruction, 3. loss of privacy and solitude, 4. increase of governmental and/or private power over individuals, and "5.

posing of choices that are too large, complex, important or uncertain to be left safely to fallible human beings."

Kahn studies his lectures with lists like these, and other reading matter as well—charts and tables, and even quotations and aphorisms set out on posters. He displays these one after the other to make the points sink home, sometimes so rapidly as he races through his subject-matter that the effect is almost subliminal. One Continental visitor to the Hudson Institute described a performance of his, not without admiration, as "Herman Kahn's *sonnet*."

He displays the same combination of powerful intelligence and exuberant uninhibited passion for communication that British televisioners associate with Magnus Pyke and Patrick Moore. Sometimes, also, he stumbles over his eagerness to communicate, losing whole phrases and scurrying up to get them, and coming near to being clownish.

Herman Kahn grew up in Los Angeles, served in the army during the war, and then studied physics at the California Institute of Technology, and taught himself economics on the side. He took a job at the Rand Corporation near by as a computer technician simply to earn a salary while he did postgraduate work, but he soon became fascinated by the problems that Rand was working on. He developed new uses for computers and systems analysis, then moved to the Rand Corporation, where he studied physics at the California Institute of Technology, and taught himself economics on the side.

Kahn was to become identified in the public mind as a southern technocrat who turns humanity's problem over to computers. But he is remembered at Rand as one who argued against excessive reliance on new intellectual tools, in favour of common sense. He used to say that much as he admired the brain-power and making of Rand when it came to tackling global political problems, he would exchange the entire staff for Winston Churchill at the age of 65.

On *Thermonuclear War* (the echo of Clausewitz is deliberate) made him famous. It also brought him vilification, for looking at the subject in a manner which, when it was not cold and dispassionate, seemed almost enthusiastic. His writing was dubbed "nuclear pornography." The science writer James R. Newman wrote in a lengthy denunciation: "Nuclear war is unthinkable, and should remain so." This gave Kahn the title for his next book.

*Thinking About the Unthinkable*, which contained among other things a vigorous defence of this nuclear colour.

He left Rand in 1963 and started the Hudson Institute, to carry out studies for the government, principally the Pentagon, and private corporations. It still does government contract work, but in recent years it has specialized in studies of the future financed by private industry and foundations, and has opened a European office in Paris and an Asian office in Tokyo.

The Hudson Institute at home is an extension of Kahn's own personality. It produces studies on subjects that interest him. In conversation, Kahn often uses the terms "I think" and "We at the Hudson Institute think" interchangeably.

He sees it as having a mission of public education, and this is carried out principally at three week-long seminars conducted each year by the Institute's staff, including Kahn himself. Government officials, academics, business executives and one or two journalists are invited; a hefty fee is charged to those whose employers cannot afford it. I attended one, and it was an extraordinarily stimulating experience. Currently, the topics for the three seminars are: Security Issues; Domestic American Issues; and Business and Society which includes questions of resources and population.

These topics are broad enough and vague enough to encompass a wide range of ideas, but they are not, as you may think, a little bit of everything. One cop worth a hundred soldiers. You have soldiers there only to protect the cops.

Every Latin American army has gone through the counter-insurgency training course in the Panama Canal Zone. The training there is much better than it is at Fort Bragg, and what's taught at Fort Bragg is better than what was practised in Vietnam.

Partly because he advises the United States military subjects, Kahn has a strong interest in counter-insurgency, some people have pictured him as an amoral technician. But he rejects this totally.

"I always ask myself the question: is it right or wrong? I do not mind being private," he says. "But I have no compunction about making the American military as skillful as possible. None at all. This is a decent country."

"I don't say that it can never do wrong. But I don't think it's immoral to make it strong. Find me any country in the world that's less likely to misuse its strength."

world will move from using what he calls exhaustible energy sources to eternal ones, such as solar energy.

As for the last session: "If I could turn the clock back about 100 years, and not have any nuclear reactors. But you can't turn the clock back, and I think we can probably avoid a disaster with a reasonably degree of control."

Nevertheless, he says: "I think about 10 Third World countries are probably starting a nuclear weapons programme clandestinely. Countries like Pakistan, Iran, Brazil, Taiwan, South Korea. That is, they have a programme in the sense that, for instance, they've got a lot of people studying physics and nuclear engineering with the thought that one day they may want to use their reactors to make weapons."

Insurgency and counter-insurgency. This occupies a lot of time in the seminar on National Security, and it is a subject on which the Hudson Institute has done studies for the United States armed forces. "There's no force like the Vietcong in Latin America. Ten years ago, people were saying that every country in Latin America would be plagued by rural guerrilla problems. They were all state rural guerrillas. Urban guerrillas are another thing."

"There's a technique for fighting a rural guerrilla war. You fight it with a rural counter-insurgency. You make it a police action. One cop worth a hundred soldiers. You have soldiers there only to protect the cops."

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Norman Moss

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## Was it disease that finally killed off the Roman Empire?

Did Gibbon get it wrong? His explanation for the fall of the Roman Empire was that degeneracy, loss of moral and physical courage, and weakening of character led to the Roman world becoming "peopled by a race of plagues for whom the gods of the north broke in." From time to time other more prosaic explanations have been offered for the apparent decline in the vigour of Roman society: chronic lead poisoning from the use of salt glazed containers for wine may have played a part, for example; but no one has seriously challenged the overall validity of Gibbon's analysis.

Yet in common with other historians writing before the present century, Gibbon could have known nothing of the transmission and spread of viral and bacterial diseases, and in consequence he gave plagues and pestilences little emphasis as causes of power changes of the ancient world.

In fact disease may have been vital in the fall of the AD troops who had been campaigning in Mesopotamia brought a new infection—almost certainly smallpox—to the Roman Empire. The Mediterranean world had no natural immunity to the virus and the mortality in this Antonine plague was heavy. Towns and whole provinces lost as many as one third of their inhabitants. More important, this was not an isolated disaster: in the next 100 years fresh epidemic waves of disease returned with equally devastating effects. Between 251 and 266 AD a "pestilence" was so virulent in Italy that at times the deaths in the city of Rome totalled over 5,000 a day. The evidence suggests that this may have been the first contact of a European population with measles—another killing disease for any community without natural resistance to it.

The result of this century of outbreaks of devastating diseases was a sudden drop in population both in the cities and the countryside, opening up the imperial frontiers to the invasions that culminated in the sack of Rome by the Goths and Vandals. Beginning in the second century, Rome made agreements with barbarian tribesmen, allowing them to settle within her frontiers in return for military service—a clear indication that empire or near-empire land was available for the immigrants without displacing Roman taxpayers. By the reign of Diocletian (285-305 AD) laws were being passed prohibiting cultivators from

leaving their land. The whole of the Roman Empire depended on a reliable supply of food for her military forces, administrators, and indeed all city dwellers; and a catastrophic reduction of the agricultural workforce by disease would inevitably mean that the system crumbled.

That is the provocative theory developed by the Chicago historian Professor William H. McNeill as part of his broader examination of the effects of disease on history. *Plagues and Peoples* (Blackwell, 54.95) published in Britain this month has already led many Americans to take a fresh look at the political and social upheavals of former civilizations, and it seems likely to provoke similar interest here.

What Gibbon and earlier historians could not have known is that epidemic diseases are most lethal for communities meeting them for the first time, and that the worst killers, such as smallpox and plague, are comparatively new arrivals in the life of the human species. So long as man remained a nomadic hunter-gatherer, moving in small groups, his diseases were few. As soon as agricultural communities had no natural immunity to the virus and the mortality in this Antonine plague was heavy. Towns and whole provinces lost as many as one third of their inhabitants. More important, this was not an isolated disaster: in the next 100 years fresh epidemic waves of disease returned with equally devastating effects. Between 251 and 266 AD a "pestilence" was so virulent in Italy that at times the deaths in the city of Rome totalled over 5,000 a day. The evidence suggests that this may have been the first contact of a European population with measles—another killing disease for any community without natural resistance to it.

And yet these early civilizations were faced to grow and resist external attack because of another aspect of human disease: the crucial effect of the population size. Virus illnesses such as measles are so infectious that they spread through a whole population quickly, generally conferring life long immunity on survivors. Without a constant supply of new victims the virus will die out; and, indeed, measles is never found in isolated communities much below 300,000 in number. It seems fairly certain that

measles arose (presumably by mutation) from a disease only with the growth of large, stable city communities: it seems to have been unknown to the Greek physician Hippocrates writing in about 400 BC. Once civilizations had acquired diseases of this kind and developed some natural immunity to them, handed down generation to generation, they were provided a powerful weapon against outsiders. Military recruits from rural backgrounds often died in their first contact with epidemic urban infections; but the survivors carried disease with them as a secret weapon in their contacts with populations on their borders. Disaster came only if armies—like Alexander's—were taken so far afield that they came into contact with an unknown large population unit established in equilibrium with another set of unfamiliar diseases.

In McNeill's thesis, then, the start of the Christian era saw a handful of separate civilizations in the ancient world. In Rome, and the Middle East, India and China. Each had established city populations of a size large enough to sustain virus diseases, with some natural immunity to them. Each was surrounded by an agricultural hinterland providing it with food and with a constant supply of healthy young people to compensate for the high mortality of city life.

Each of these civilizations, in itself stable biologically, was kept within its frontiers by disease barriers: the Chinese could not even penetrate south from the Yellow River basin to the Yangtze because of their susceptibility to malaria and schistosomiasis. Yet while disease might prevent military expansion it did not stop individual conquerors, and as early as 196 AD Roman merchants are said to have reached the regions of China under the control of the Han dynasty. It was the trade routes, however, that facilitated the spread of infection and the next thousand years saw repeated epidemics weaken and disintegrate society, with the awful climax of the Black Death between 1347 and 1350.

Even more dramatic, because the isolation had been so complete, was the impact of European disease upon the Americas. On the night when the Aztecs drove Cortez and his

Dr Tony Smith







### Stock Exchange Prices

## Capitalization and week's change

Account Days : Dealings Began, March 14. Dealings End, March 25. § Contango Day, March 28. Settlement Day, April 5.

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.**

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

فيضان المال

### Commonwealth team urges fundamental changes in IMF's lending policies

By Melvyn Westlake  
Economics Staff

The most far-reaching reform of the International Monetary Fund since it was set up in the middle 1940s is recommended in a still confidential report drawn up by an international team of experts. They say that the IMF should have the capability to lend much more money, for longer periods and on more flexible terms.

Their report is the result of two years' work by a 10-man team. It was commissioned by Commonwealth heads of government at their last meeting in Kingston, Jamaica, in June, the celebrated "Commonwealth initiative" taken at the meeting by Mr Wilson, then Prime Minister.

Under their chairman Mr Alister McIntyre, secretary general of the Caribbean Community, the "ten wise men" as they have been called, put the final touches to their findings last week.

The survey will be circulated to Commonwealth governments over the next two weeks. It will be one of the key items on the agenda of the next meeting, which is to be held at Lancaster House in June by nearly three dozen Commonwealth presidents and prime ministers.

The experts, who include representatives of both rich and poor countries, were asked to suggest practical ways of reducing the economic gap between the world's wealthy northern states and their poor southern neighbours.

Their setting up emerged as a compromise between those radical leaders who wanted a new international economic order, and those who wanted more minor changes to world trade, aid and monetary affairs. Britain is represented by Mr Sydney Golt, a former deputy secretary of the Board of Trade.

Fundamental changes in the



Mr McIntyre: chairman of 'Ten Wise Men'.

IMF lending policies are advocated in the report. It suggests that the size of a developing country's borrowings should be related to the magnitude of its balance of payments deficit, rather than its quota at the Fund, which is purely historical.

A significant easing is proposed in the financial conditions the IMF attaches to loans. It is felt that Fund economists have a standard recipe which they apply when making loans. This recipe includes evaluation and public spending cuts, and is applied to all borrowers from the United Kingdom to Zaire, regardless of individual circumstances.

The experts believe that the IMF should become more like an international central bank. They accept that borrowers must accept some financial discipline; but they think that financial conditions should be more appropriate to the needs of the borrowing country.

Much of the money available to developing countries is not drawn because of the unpopu-

larity of IMF lending conditions.

It is also recommended that the role of the special drawing right (SDR) should be upgraded. The experts want to see SDR become the most important international reserve asset, with its allocation linked to development aid.

The SDR was first allocated on an "experimental" basis through the IMF in the early 1970s. But it still plays a relatively minor role in the settlement of international debts compared to dollars and gold.

Also, the report says that the balance of payments payments surpluses, like West Germany, Japan and some oil exporting nations, should do more to help the poorest nations. This should be done in two ways, directly by giving more foreign aid and indirectly by importing more and stimulating the world economy.

Many of the recommendations in the report, like those for increasing the volume of lending through the IMF, bear some resemblance to ideas which are known to be under discussion at various diplomatic levels in the main capitals of Europe and North America.

The whole issue of the Third World's deteriorating trade position and international indebtedness has been given a fresh urgency by a new United Nations analysis of the future of the world economy.

This suggests that the trade imbalance of the world is not only growing but will reach huge totals in the later years of this century. Even at 1970 relative prices, the potential balance of payments deficit of these countries would be \$190,000m by the year 2000.

Even if the economies of these countries grew at 6 per cent a year and the industrialized nations continued to grow at historical rates, there would be no reduction in the gap between rich and poor states.

### Alarm at Hitachi plan for British TV factory

By Ronald Embley

British manufacturers are alarmed by the prospect of a third Japanese company, Hitachi, being allowed to set up a television assembly plant in Britain.

Already Sony and Matsushita (which sells under the National Panasonic brand name) have plants in South Wales.

Lord Thomson, chairman of the Radio Industry Council, has written to Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, telling him of "the immense concern" within the domestic industry and requesting a meeting with the Secretary of State before the Government decides whether to approve the project.

Hitachi executives were unwilling to comment on their plans over the weekend, except to say that they were only in an early stage.

At the weekend the Department of Industry said Lord Thomson's letter was "being considered".

It is thought that the Hitachi plan is to open a plant in the North-east, where industry sources suggest it would not be profitable with an annual production of less than 200,000 receivers.

If it were to be sited in an assistance area an industrial development certificate would not be needed; but the Bank of England would take advice from the Department of Industry before deciding whether to grant the exchange control permission needed by Hitachi before the project can proceed.

In his letter Lord Thomson says that to allow the Hitachi project to go forward would lead to the closing of 2,200 jobs in the television industry, which is in one of the five sectors chosen by the Government for priority treatment under its industrial strategy programme.

He says the British industry is already working at only between 50 and 60 per cent of its capacity with a 2.2 million colour television receivers, and there is little prospect of any more than a marginal improvement in the next few years.

In both the colour and monochrome set sectors, he tells Mr Varley, "there is no requirement whatsoever for an overseas manufacturer to be introduced into the United Kingdom". He also points out the widespread European concern that Britain has allowed Sony and Matsushita to set up plants here.

Lord Thomson's letter says that because of pressure from British manufacturers for Japanese restraint, which is being met by Hitachi, the pattern of new plant openings in the United States market by Japanese television manufacturers has not been fully reflected here early this month.

The United States International Trade Commission recommended that the President Carter impose additional duties on Japanese-made consumer electronic goods to protect the domestic industry.

Both Sony and Matsushita are pledged to export a considerable amount of their British production and draw not less than 50 per cent of their component supply needs from British sources. But Lord Thomson says that the industry is under "no illusion" that the Hitachi plan is to set up a production plant in Finland and export to the United Kingdom, a major threat to tube manufacture in Europe.

### Whitehall modifies hard line on monetary indexing Inflation accounting shift

By Christopher Wilkins

A significant shift has taken place in Whitehall thinking on inflation accounting. This has been considerably improved by the changes of some allowances being made in company accounts to cover the changing value of monetary items.

Hitherto the Government has been implacably opposed to the concept of adjustments in profit and loss accounts for monetary items, largely on the ground that once the principle of indexing money had been established it would open the way to indexing other things including Government debt.

The Government's position has come through particularly forcibly in a working party which has been set up by the Bank of England to look into the particular problems faced by banks.

Radical disagreement has developed within the committee between the four bank

representatives, who strongly favour monetary adjustments, and Mr Michael Thornton, the Bank of England representative, who is opposed.

But recent discussions between accountants and Whitehall officials have pointed to a change in the Government's hard line. No full re-assessment of the Government's view on inflation accounting has taken place since the publication of the exposure draft by the Morphet Committee last December; so at this stage it is not clear how far thinking has come round in favour of monetary adjustments.

But the arguments put forward by accountants and the banks have led to a much better disposed view.

There is still a lot of uncertainty about how, in practice, adjustments should best be made for monetary items. The Government is expected to stand firm on its opposition to the suggestion that a special case should be made for banks to

allow them to set off against profit an amount to cover the real erosion of their capital. One solution, gathering increasing support among accountants, is the suggestion raised by stockbroker Mr Martin Gibbs. This broadly proposes that adjustments against profit should be made for working capital, a whole, not just stocks as proposed by both the Sandilands and Morphet Committees.

The effect of this would be to bring debtors and creditors into the equation. The banks' problems, too, could be solved this way since their monetary assets—cash and short-term loans—and their liabilities—essentially short-term deposits—could be regarded as debtors and creditors.

The British Institute of Chartered Accountants, which has already given its backing to the banks' case for monetary adjustments, is expected to come out in favour of a solution along these lines.

### Bonn poised for bigger role in world economy

With the views of the Carter Administration in the United States still very much undecided, West Germany appears to be gearing itself to play a more active role than hitherto in forming international economic and monetary policies.

At the forthcoming meeting of the International Monetary Fund's interim committee in Washington at the end of April and the Downing Street economic summit early in May, West Germany can be expected to put forward ideas amounting to a distinct "foreign policy" of its own in economic and monetary affairs.

It would appear that at last Germany is to use its position as Europe's strongest economic power to act rather than merely react in the debate about future world economy. Specifically, West Germany will throw its weight behind plans to create a new "facility" at the International Monetary Fund to provide financial aid to those industrial and developing countries in need that have exhausted their existing credit lines.

It would like to see the oil-rich Arab nations brought more into the activities and responsibilities of the IMF, possibly through a further increase in their quotas.

Also, Dr Hans Apel, Germany's Finance Minister, has indicated that his Government would support a capital increase at the World Bank.

This more positive approach can be partly explained by fears that certain currents in international economic thinking, such as the Third Worldists, could lead to a universal commodities stabilization fund or the continuing pressure on Germany to reflate its domestic economy could be of direct harm to the German economy.

Alongside the defensive stance is the confidence born of the success of home domestic stabilization policy, opening the way for a programme of moderate inflation-free growth.

For while there are still 1.2 million people unemployed in Germany (it is argued for structural rather than cyclical reasons), there is little doubt that Germany has come out of the recession in a better state than just about any other Western country. Its level of ship is therefore disinclined to make a common party with those who have a gloomy and apocalyptic vision of future world economic trends.

Like other Western nations, Germany sees problems arising from the divergence of economic performance among the industrialized states, two rich and poor and in the persistence of balance of payments deficits in certain Western countries.

The differences lie in that the Germans do not believe the first problem can be brought nearer solution through a further stimulation of their own economy.

Peter Norman

### £130m ship deal with Poland near

By Peter Hill

Negotiations on a £130m shipbuilding deal between Britain and Poland have reached an advanced stage, and United Kingdom negotiators are expected to submit their final offer to the Poles soon.

The proposals which emerged a week before Christmas last year when agreement in principle was reached between Mr Callaghan and Mr Piotr Jaroszewicz, the Polish Premier, have attracted world-wide attention.

They have led to allegations (particularly from Norway) that Britain is breaking credit rules laid down by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. But British officials have vehemently denied that the OECD credit rules are being broken.

Negotiations for the 22-ship deal have been extremely hard and the Poles are well aware of the importance of the order to the British Government and to the soon-to-be-nationalized United Kingdom shipbuilding industry, where the lack of orders is threatening thousands of jobs.

Since December, three yards have been preparing the detailed specifications for the bulk carriers involved in the deal.

Govan Shipbuilders has been responsible for the design of the six 35,000-ton deadweight

ships being sought by the Poles. Swan Hunter for the six 10,000-ton vessels in the package, and the Scott Lithgow subsidiary, Ferguson Brothers, for the 10 4,400-ton ships.

Next week negotiators hope to agree on the technical details and a final offer from the organizing committee for British Shipbuilders, the new state organization, will be made shortly.

Under the terms of the deal it is planned to form a joint company in Poland between the Polish state shipbuilding company, PZM, and British Shipbuilders.

PZM would guarantee to provide the charter income

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### Lucas, Vauxhall sign electric minibus deal

By Clifford Webb

Mass production of electric powered vehicles has moved a step closer with the signing of a deal between Lucas Industries and Vauxhall Motors, under which the American-owned group will begin limited production of an electric minibus at its Luton plant.

Mr Geoffrey Harding, general manager of Lucas's electric vehicles project, said at the weekend: "I regard this as a considerable breakthrough, which should see electric vehicles in volume production in about three years' time."

Interest in electric buses is not confined to Vauxhall alone. In Detroit last month it was demonstrated, personally to the heads of the big four United States motor companies by Mr Bernard Scott, Lucas group chairman.

Mr Ellison "Pete" Estes, president of General Motors, Vauxhall's parent company, Mr Roy Shapin (chairman of Ford), Mr Eugene Cefiere (president of Chrysler), and Mr Roy Shapin (chairman of American Motors) all insisted on trying the bus on their own test tracks.

It is based on Vauxhall's Bedford CF van chassis and uses an advanced low friction transmission and control system developed by Lucas, giving it a range of between 70 and 140 miles on a single charge.

Having a capacity for seven, it has a top speed of 55 mph and will accelerate fully loaded from 0 to 30 mph in 14 seconds.

Mr Harding told Business News: "The Electric Pullman, as we call the new vehicle, has been designed for production on a standard assembly line. In fact, it can be mixed with its conventional combustion engine production. No job will be foreign to existing assembly line workers."

He said it would cost about one and a half times a petrol powered equivalent, but running costs would be much lower. It is well before based on a seven-year life would be about 8,500 miles a year. He said its range and capabilities made it suitable for 85 per cent of commercial transport requirements in major cities.

### Contractors favour 16-amp plug

By Kenneth Owen

Active support is being given by the Electrical Contractors' Association to proposals for an international standard 16-amp plug and socket.

In a statement on the plan the association says the proposed plug and socket would be basically safer than most in use in the United Kingdom at present; but the economics of introducing the new design have still to be examined in detail.

From a safety point of view, the association says, existing European plugs are unsatisfactory for use in the United Kingdom. But the proposed new design would be acceptable.

Apart from a particular manufacturing problem, there are few, if any, plug and socket arrangements in use in the United Kingdom which are basically as safe as the design of the proposed 16-amp plug and socket.

It is decided that Britain will adopt the new design, the association says, "it really ought to be the final change."

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### Hattersley prices panel clash feared

By Our Industrial Editor

There are growing anxieties in some quarters of Whitehall that the strengthened Price Commission proposed by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, could undermine the role of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading.

Concern is being expressed that an extension of the Price Commission's powers of investigation into the effects of pricing practices and their impact on industries and services will confuse both businessmen and existing agencies undertaking similar or related work.

The problem centres largely on the role of the Monopolies Commission as well as the work of the Office of Fair Trading, which have statutory duties in examining trade practices, pricing behaviour, monopoly situations, and so on.

It is not without significance that Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, has just made a public plea to the Government for more power to investigate restrictive trade agreements, often concerned with prices.

At the same time there are doubts within his office that duplication with an enhanced Price Commission can be avoided without some behind-the-scenes horse-trading and Whitehall arm-twisting of a kind that might diminish the OFT's independent influence in promoting fair competition and dealing with doubtful corporate behaviour, or screening mergers where parties to a Price Commission inquiry could be involved.

Mr Hattersley is believed to reject suggestions that his ideas for remodelling the Price Commission, with a new chairman and members, will weaken the role either of the OFT or the Commission. But certainly there is evidence of misgivings in industry circles. It is known where the standards on monopoly and restrictive practices law—and in the corridors of Whitehall.

### Proposals due soon on Co-op federation

By Maurice Corina

Proposals for simplifying the complex structure of the Co-operative movement by establishing a few national federations are expected to be announced shortly.

The most dramatic feature will be a scheme for amalgamating the powerful Co-operative Wholesale Society with the British Co-operative Union, which is the existing national organisation for 200 retail societies with sales exceeding £2,000m a year.

For nearly two years a special merger team has been investigating both the desirability of a get-together and how it might be done at the earliest practicable time.

What is expected to be announced—perhaps this week—is a structure for implementing such a fundamental reform, ending fragmentation in trading and other activities.

A document is due to be presented to the annual Co-operative Congress, over the spring Bank holiday, spelling out how all the different interests in the Co-op empire will be brought together as the next move in the movement's increasing centralisation in raising its share of national retail trade and restore

growth to its manufacturing and other operations.

There has always been a cautious attitude among retail co-operative societies towards surrendering too much power to the CWS, which is wholesaler, banker, insurer, and manufacturer to the movement.

The autonomous retail societies own and elect the board of the CWS, which has a strong managerial team with delegated powers, but they also belong to the CWS, a historic national regional organization which provides advisory services and coordinates many activities, besides engaging in politics and educational matters.

It is expected that a combination of reform of the two national federations into a single organization will be some fundamental changes to the powerful CWS, including control and representation on its governing board. Lay co-operators who are not employees or managers have long felt remote from the centres of power, and some top managers have been over-stretched by service on both union and CWS committees.

The future of the Co-operative Party has to be secured under any new arrangements.

### Freeze hit chemical profits

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Leading chemical companies saw their performance badly undermined in 1976/77, according to a survey published today. Average return on capital employed was cut by nearly half compared with the previous year, to a level of 0.5 per cent.

The report, which covers 50 leading companies in the industry over a three-year period to April last year, showed that while sales of the companies increased by 50 per cent over the period, the rate of growth occurred in the first half and grew by only 4 per cent in the second period.

Total profits, according to the survey, were up by 80 per cent in 1974/75 but declined 40 per cent in the final year, when eight companies reported losses. Average profit margins decreased by 42 per cent to 6 per cent and the average return on capital employed fell to 0.5 per cent.

According to information obtained from a minority of companies covered by the survey, average sales per employee rose by 41 per cent over the three-year period while average remuneration increased by 51 per cent and capital used per employee rose by 20 per cent.

\*Business Ratio Report on Chemical Manufacturers, ICC Business Ratios, price 13s.

### Opec increases expected to unify at below 8 pc

New York, March 20.—Despite an apparent deadlock, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' dual price squeeze is likely to end with a settlement equivalent to a 7 to 8 per cent increase for the West European market, Intelligence Weekly Reports.

Some oil companies are tailoring their planning according to this approximate scenario, it says.

Recent dentals by members of Opec's executive committee are understood to be partly aimed at "depressurizing" the situation and leaving negotiators a freer hand.

The journal points out that reports from Iran say the Shah is ready to drop the dual 10 per cent increase to 8 per cent and thus lead the way back to unity. Price hawks realize too they will need a united front to be able to raise prices in the future, PIW says.

Although the contest seems largely in the Opec camp, it is understood that the Government is likely to see unity restored for policy reasons.

### Chamber airs objection to pricing powers

A memorandum has been sent by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection attacking the Government's proposals.

The memorandum says surveys by the chamber show that members are willing to accept some form of price restraint as the *quid pro quo* for pay restraint. However, the proposed switch from allowable costs to a system of discretionary powers is causing great concern.

The new powers, says the chamber, would introduce further administrative problems and there appears to be no bar to the sort of information the Price Commission could call upon.

Commenting on the proposed price rises, the chamber says that the need to introduce legislative powers to enforce the findings is disputed.

On nationalised industries the chamber calls for any price controls to apply equally to both public and private sectors.

### THE NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

147th Annual General Meeting  
Notice of Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 147th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 5 Bow Churchyard (off Chappell) in the City of London on Tuesday, the 19th day of April, 1977, at noon for the following purposes:

To receive and consider the Directors' Report, the Accounts and Balance Sheet for 1976 and the Auditors' Report thereon;

To elect Auditors and to transact the other ordinary business of the Society;

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the following resolution will be proposed at the above meeting as a Special Resolution:

"That the Society's Articles of Association be altered as follows—

- In Article 7 by deleting the words "£10,000" and substituting the figure "£100,000";
- In Article 6—
  - by substituting for the word "seven" the word "fourteen";
  - by deleting all the words which follow the words "Article 79 hereof"; and substituting the following words: "and no member or other person shall be entitled to receive notice of General Meetings. Notice of every General Meeting shall be given to the Auditors in any manner authorized by Article 79";
- In Article 19(b) by deleting the words "In respect of a policy or policies exceeding £2,000, ten votes and substituting the following: "In respect of a policy or policies exceeding £2,000 but not exceeding £10,000, ten votes";
- In respect of a policy or policies exceeding £10,000 but not exceeding £15,000, twelve votes";
- In respect of a policy or policies exceeding £15,000 but not exceeding £20,000, fourteen votes";
- In respect of a policy or policies exceeding £20,000 but not exceeding £25,000, sixteen votes";
- In respect of a policy or policies exceeding £25,000, fifteen votes";

- In Article 31(b) by inserting immediately after the word "if" the words "without the approval of the Directors";
- In Article 32 by deleting the words "but not exceeding £2,000 per annum" and substituting the words "but not exceeding £2,000 per annum";
- In Article 37 by deleting the words "but not exceeding £2,000 per annum" and substituting the words "but not exceeding £2,000 per annum";
- In Article 43(b) by deleting the word "thirty" and substituting the word "sixty";
- In Article 45(b) by inserting immediately after the word "if" the words "without the approval of the Directors";
- By inserting immediately after Article 54 the following new Article:—

"S



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Testing the market with a gilt-edged novelty

When someone offers you a novelty in the financial world, you can react in two ways. Either you take the offer, or you reject it. The novelty before you would have done so only if they were certain, or as certain as they could be, that it was a real bargain. Or you instinctively recoil from the offer, on the assumption that there must be a trick to it somewhere.

It is, then, going to be fascinating to see just how the market responds this week to the Bank's application of the part-paid mechanism to its latest £800m gilt offer.

The case for taking the suspicious view is quite simply that—whether intended or not—the offer could turn out to be a trap. The basis for such a view is that the authorities, with the incomes policy battle at its height, will find themselves up against rather more difficult funding conditions in the late spring, and that they are merely laying a bait while the fish is in the mood to bite.

Naturally the authorities play down this argument. They prefer to see the exercise as one of restoring a degree of influence over long-term yields while minimising the squeeze on money supply—the new stock bringing in only £120m before the end of the present financial year. They would, moreover, presumably add that this aim is made all the more visible by the fact that they are actively trying to discourage overseas interests in the new stock.

But that in itself is unlikely to convince the sceptics. For the counter-argument must be that, in the right conditions (and the conditions on Thursday are anyone's guess at the moment), the offer will merely succeed in drawing back much of the speculative money that had recently been eased out of the market. And there is of course no reason why overseas buyers should not punt in the stock for short-term gain, though it is true that foreigners tend to treat novelties with suspicion, at least first time round.

The main question, however, for most institutions (apart from any problems individual funds may have in earmarking commitments for the next quarter at this stage) is the basic issue of whether now is the right time to be committing new money anyway.

Certainly, majority feeling is still that the medium-term prospects for gilts remain favourable. The IMF has control over monetary dealings, the PSBR is undershooting and inflation, after the spring hump, should be falling nicely. Interest rates too should have further to fall, though how far depends on one's view of the timing of an upturn in overseas rates, and whether one believes (see Greenwell's latest *Monetary Bulletin*) that unchanged monetary and foreign exchange policies can only lead us into deeper recession.

Over the short term, however, the course of the incomes policy debate must be taken as a potential source of anxiety for financial markets—regardless of the monetary restraints in which any policy will presumably have to work. The foreign exchange market is already talking of the possibility of a temporary reaction in sterling—which they argue that the authorities would not choose to prevent. And it is not difficult to see what might happen to sentiment in the wake of the poor trade figures or evidence that the exceptional factors recently depressing bank lending had



Mr David Darbishire, chairman of FMC: parties meet to talk it over.

ties must by law keep at least 7½ per cent of their funds in liquid form, which in practice means at least 10 per cent.

Term deposits, as well as temporary money with the local authorities, may count towards that 7½ per cent—provided the money is lent with a six month "stress" clause, under which the building societies may claim it back if they can plead necessity, once six months have expired.

In practice this stress clause is a dead letter, so that "liquid" as applied to such term investments means not so very liquid after all. But then "liquid" as applied to the 7½ per cent statutory liquidity requirement is not so very liquid either. Any society in need of those funds would automatically be in a state of stress and out of business.

### Borthwick/FMC

#### Negotiating with the trust

Thomas Borthwick's plan to go over the head of the NFU Development Trust to small shareholders in FMC is proving an easy promise. Pushed into a corner last week by the Trust when it snapped up another 5 per cent or so of FMC shares to take its holding up to nearly 45 per cent, Borthwick knows full well that the only way it can win is to reach some sort of agreement with the Trust. Which explains why the parties are meeting again this week to try to see if there is any common ground.

One question that needs to be answered is why the Trust didn't put everyone out of its misery last week by picking up the odd 2 to 3 per cent of FMC to give it full control. Under Panel rules, of course, it would have had to raise its bid to the highest price paid for shares during the period and that could have meant stamping up £1m plus, assuming it could have won through, at the market price of 114p. Its failure to do so, however, makes me wonder how far it can up the ante against Borthwick.

The NFU Trust began life in 1954 as the Faststock Marketing Corporation and eight years later spun off its trading activities in the shape of the FMC. We know today, retaining a 35 per cent investment stake in FMC at the time.

The Trust is in practice a company limited by guarantee with clearly defined objectives: to promote the interests of farmers who produce livestock. Its only real source of income is the dividends on its FMC holding, and though until last year's cut in the dividend the return on the cost of its investment was reasonably good, most of its income has been used to raise its FMC holding.

With no other sizable source of income, there obviously comes a time when FMC dividends of only 3.85p a share, producing a yield of only 3½ per cent at 114p, must be weighed against the 14-15 per cent cost of borrowed money. And even though its financial advisers reckon its borrowing facilities are adequate, it has already had to borrow to fund part of the 97p offer and may be unwilling or unable to go any further.

The market is taking that line, at any rate, but shareholders need be in no hurry to sell since Borthwick may yet be able to persuade the Trust to a higher offer.

We are starting a week that could force a general election and in due course produce a government of one party or another claiming that it had "a new mandate" to do X, Y and Z. It would be helpful if, in the economic and industrial field at least, commitments that whole aspects of the existing order would be subject to root and branch reform within the lifetime of the next Parliament could be kept to a reasonable minimum.

For the fact is that under the combined effects of inflation, continued deep recession, several years of voluntary and then involuntary controls on prices and pay, and after a year when the pound devalued almost daily, the economy is in a state of shock. The public and the private sector need as much as possible of an unexciting regime, without unnecessary shocks or

disquieting changes, so that they may come through convalescence with a sense of confidence restored.

Our general system seems positively to delight in forcing through U-turns of policy. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the policies designed to deal with the intransigent problems of high unemployment in the traditional industrial areas.

For example, an area like Merseyside now has to come to terms with the latest job losses because of the closures at Plessey. Coming on top of other well-publicised cutbacks in the area, the Plessey problems are having a disproportionately large impact. Yet Merseyside, like other development areas, has just seen the Government cut without warning the regional employment premium, which was specifically designed to encourage employers of labour to establish themselves in such areas.

REP has had its critics as well as its

supporters. It lacks discrimination. It is a non-productive subsidy. Many of those involved consider that equivalent sums spent on, say, building advanced factories would have produced more jobs. But the withdrawal of the premium without warning must upset the cash flow projects of companies operating in development areas.

Worse, it can only undermine the credibility and therefore the effectiveness of all other inducements to invest in development areas. If REP can be cut off thus, so could anything else. The decision about a new investment is made on a time-scale longer than that in which most politicians operate.

At the very least the system should be made to operate so that major legislative and fiscal changes carry with them adjustment periods within which rational industrial and commercial adjustments can be made.

This is only one of the juddering U-turns of central policy about the

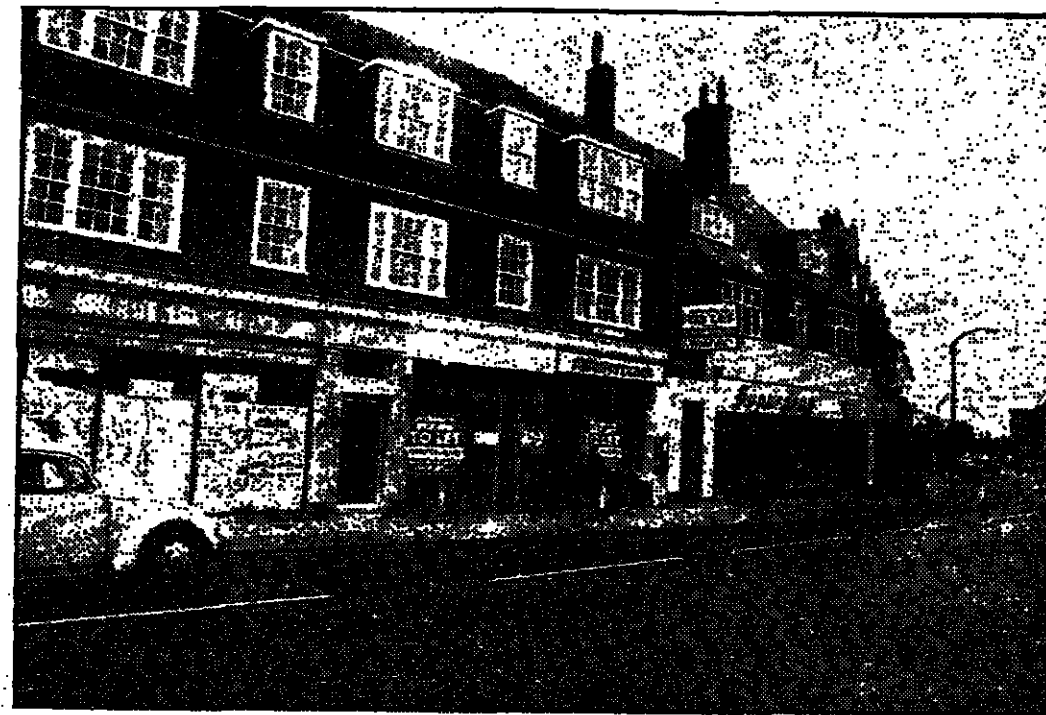
regions. There is the sudden switch in fashion from demolition and clearance to rehabilitation of our decaying city centres.

There is the sudden conclusion that providing homes and jobs in new towns on greenfield sites may be less effective and more expensive than trying to create jobs where the unemployment already exists and the investment in the infrastructure is already in being.

There is the dawning realization that unemployment in traditional manufacturing industry need more commercial and office jobs. In contrast traditional policy has tried to attract equally vulnerable manufacturing and capital-intensive investment to such areas.

But, if policy changes are to be made in these directions they should come in such a way that industry and commerce believe them to be permanent not temporary, and can respond accordingly.

## Is the pace of modern life too hot for the small shopkeeper?



Boarded shops where small businesses once thrived adjacent to newly arrived supermarkets a sign of the time pictured here in a suburban high street near London.

of special merchandise it stocked, today the likelihood is that whether supermarket, multiple or corner shop, the basic range of goods will be practically identical.

The consolidation of manufacturers and suppliers has probably contributed almost as much to the demise of small shops as the greater buying power of their larger rivals. What has undoubtedly helped the trend along has been the growing swing to convenience

With the spread of refrigerators, not only did daily shopping cease to be a necessity but came the introduction of quality frozen foods and even grandmothers forsook the habits of a lifetime, in gain of freedom from the kitchen chores. From there, it was only a short step to the greater acceptance of pre-packed goods; and with the multiples cashed in on volume orders: squabbling out many of the smaller manufacturers' suppliers and accelerating the merger, take over stampede.

With fewer buying outlets, the small shop suddenly found itself competing directly with the giants and since, despite efforts towards collaborative purchasing, it could not obtain the same bulk order discounts, cost of stock came more expensive. A common moan among the independent grocers' fraternity is that they can purchase the staples more cheaply at the cash and carry than through their normal suppliers. And that, they swear darkly, has nothing to do with mere economies of scale!

On March 29 we shall see whether the save our cities campaign is for real—or just window dressing

Allegations of unfair trading are not confined to the grocery business. The Retail Fruit Trade Federation complains that their members are habitually short-changed on both quality and quantity and that, until weight and grading regulations are imposed on growers/wholesalers, purchase of stock will remain a lottery—with the small grower invariably getting a raw deal.

EEC intervention policies are another sore point, with the National Federation of Meat Traders bitterly maintaining that: "Membership of the EEC has resulted in the manipulation of the market in favour of the bigger boys". What particularly riles independent butchers are the concessions to large groups with the cold storage facilities to take meat off the market—enabling them to purchase on vastly more favourable terms.

Silkkin feels particularly strongly about the folly of working through the night, largely because of order discounts as a Labour whip in Westminster when his party had a wafer-thin majority in the middle 1960s. He firmly believes that the strain of attending all-night sessions in Parliament during the 1964-65 Labour Government curtailed the lives of a number of MPs on both sides of the House.

But notwithstanding Silkkin's good intentions, seasoned followers of EEC farm price negotiations will be amazed if this year's exercise can be completed at a civilized hour.

### King's tour

Hard-working King Juan Carlos of Spain arrived in Cairo this weekend on the first stop of a one-week Middle East trip to improve Spain's commercial and diplomatic relations with Arab countries.

Accompanied by Queen Sofia and by Marcelino Oreja, his foreign minister, the King is to confer with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat about trade deals. It was recently agreed that Egypt will manufacture automobiles under licence from the Spanish SEAT company.

He will also make modern history by being the first non-Islamic head of state to visit the Arab League headquarters in Cairo. On Wednesday he will travel to Jordan, for a three-day official visit at the invitation of his friend King Hussein.

## Business Diary in Europe: Fiat's Libyan backers • TU reformer

The purchase last December of a 9.6 per cent share in Fiat, Italy's biggest company, by former colonial subjects has been followed by the nomination of two Libyans to the motor and engineering group's board. Their first attendance will probably be at a board meeting this month.

The two are both bankers in their forties. Regob A. Miselati, born in 1934 and a graduate of Benghazi University, is described by Fiat as president and director general of the Umma Bank, a founder of the Prima Commercial Bank, a deputy governor of the Central Bank, and also president and director general of the National Oil Corporation.

He is also one of the five-man Fiat executive committee along with the Agnelli brothers Giovanni and Umberto, Gianluigi Gabetti and Cesare Romiti.

The other is Abdalla Saudi, 40 yesterday, chairman and general manager of the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, who was involved on the Libyan side in the confidential negotiations for the deal.

Giovanni Agnelli has said the Libyans will have no power of veto and there are no secret clauses in the agreement, while the Libyans have pledged that their policies will be governed by business rather than political considerations.

They have already paid over the \$415m they promised to inject into Fiat, to the consequent benefit of the lira. The sum is not far short of the

\$530m Italy is seeking from the International Monetary Fund.

### Image builder

Frankfurt banking circles were surprised at the news last week that Walter Hesselbach is to resign his post as chief executive of the trade union owned Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft this summer.

For Hesselbach, who is an energetic 62-year-old, has been on the BFG managing board since the bank's foundation in 1958 and took over the chairmanship three years later. Under his sway, the BFG has grown into one of Germany's bigger nationwide banks with a group balance sheet total of around DM40,000m.

Although Hesselbach is stepping down as BFG chief executive, he is not going into retirement. From this summer he is to run the trade union's commercial interests in banking, insurance, retailing and travel as chief executive of the union owned holding company Beteiligungsgesellschaft für Gemeinwirtschaft.

The German trade union movement has an ambivalent attitude towards its not inconceivable commercial empire. Purists have argued that the movement should always be seen to have the plain men and not play at being one of the bosses. Perhaps because of this, the trade union owned companies have a rather undefined public image. Critics would go so far as to say they lack a sense of direction.

If anyone can change this state of affairs it will be Walter

Hesselbach and it is probably a sign of his prestige that no single man could be found to take his place at the BFG.

Instead control will pass to two men in their forties. Dieter Hoffmann, aged 47, will be in charge of foreign business and the 44-year-old Thomas Wegscheider will assume responsibility for the bank's activities in West Germany.

### Into the pits

The retirement of 79-year-old Enzo Ferrari as president of the company he founded more than 30 years ago ends an era—but it seems certain that flame-red Ferraris will continue to dazzle crowds on race tracks around the world.

Ferrari, who announced yesterday he was quitting because of age and ill health, is



Enzo Ferrari.

expected to maintain control over the activities of the racing team.

"But for racing nothing will change", chief engineer Mauro Forghieri said yesterday. "Indeed, Ferrari will now be thinking solely of racing, which has always been the thing that interested him most."

With a new car at the testing stage, and due to make its debut in the Spanish Grand Prix, there is every reason to suppose that Ferrari's ambition is still to add to his tally of seven world championship titles.

Since 1969 the Ferrari company has been controlled by the Fiat Group, and the choice of Ferrari's new president rests with the Agnelli brothers at Fiat.

Ferrari, who announced yesterday he was quitting because of age and ill health, is

The recent death of Anthony Crosland, long after chairing all the EEC ministerial meetings in Brussels has reinforced the resolve of his Cabinet colleague, John Silkin, to avoid a final grumbling marathon, and to wrap up this year's farm price review.

The British Minister of Agriculture, who will be in the EEC presidency chair when the price discussions resume at the end of this week, has warned a number of his friends and colleagues that the final bargaining session will end at dinner rather than breakfast time.

His aim is supported by Finn Olav Gundelach, the European Commissioner for Agriculture, who will almost certainly play a crucial role in working out a final compromise.

Food for thought

## MID-SUSSEX WATER COMPANY

(Incorporated in 1898 by Act of Parliament)

Authorized Share and Loan Capital £19,000,000

PLACING OF £3,000,000

1½ per cent REDEEMABLE DEBENTURE STOCK, 1985 at £99 per cent

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the above Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

In accordance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange, £300,000 of the Stock will be available in the market until noon on the day after the publication of this Advertisement.

The Stock will rank for interest pari passu with the existing Debenture Stocks of the Company. Particulars of the Stock have been circulated by Eitel Statistical Services Ltd. and copies may be obtained during usual business hours up to and including 4th April 1977 from:-

DENNIS MURPHY, CAMPBELL & COMPANY

Finsbury House, 22 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AS.

مكازم التحصيل



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Overseas visitors: an answer from the BTA

From Sir Alexander Glen  
Mr Nicholas Baker, in his letter "The cost of providing overseas visitors with a 'tourist' of March 16, put forward a number of points which the British Tourist Authority is glad to answer.  
Over the past few years the number of overseas staff employed in the hotel trade has been reduced drastically. In 1976, it was necessary for the BTA to issue only 3,406 permits for foreign Commonwealth workers. Throughout the country it is not uncommon to find that the majority of hotel staff are predominantly British citizens who are employed on a full-time basis. The BTA has carried out a number of studies on urban areas and has found that the tourism industry is not only a major source of employment but also a major source of income for the community. Mr Baker complains of the noise, crowding, invasion of privacy. But he should be aware that the ten million overseas visitors who came to Britain last year were only one-tenth of the number of our own holidaymakers. The BTA is not a holiday or for personal or business reasons. If people en masse come to a good hard look at their own fellow citizens. It is not possible, however, to answer Mr Baker's question

about the cost to the community of different types of tourism. I suspect he is confusing the situation in Britain with that in Spain. In fact, the purposes for which visitors come to Britain are infinitely varied.  
Nearly a quarter of the spending derives from conferences and seminars, and artistic, scientific and medical reasons, together with language study, provide some of a host of other reasons for visiting Britain.  
What is disturbing in the letter from Mr Baker, as a prospective parliamentary candidate, is his disinterest both in the balance of payments of Britain and also in the reduction of unemployment. An activity which contributed last year £2,000m to the sorely strained balance cannot be written off as lightly as Mr Baker suggests. Nor can activity which provides over a million jobs predominantly—as has been explained—for British citizens.  
Tourism, in short, has been one of the few growth industries in Britain. Like every human activity it has its disadvantages as its benefits, but the former do not include pollution or the scarring of landscape, while the benefits are very apparent in the support which tourism spending has given to the artistic and cultural life of the country. Good theatre, music and the historic houses would be much the poorer without tourism's support and the preservation of a Marmora would be an idle dream.  
Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDER GLEN,  
Chairman, British Tourist Authority,  
54 St James's Street,  
London W1A 1NF.  
March 17.

## Ford UK cars and delivery dates

From Mr C. L. Irwin  
Sir, It is ironic that Mr Burgess's letter (March 16) concerning the cancellation of a Mini Clubman Estate and substitution by a Ford Escort 1300 should have appeared in today's issue.  
In the late afternoon of January 31, at the showrooms of Ford Personal Escort, London, I placed an order, and left a deposit on a 1300 Ford Escort to comply with specifications for a European country. Delivery date was given as March 28, 1977.  
When I reached home, three hours later, a phone call had advised me that the car had been ordered. The colour which I had chosen, was not available. The following day a phone call advised me that delivery could not be expected in the end of the first week in April.  
Yesterday afternoon, after 18 minutes on the phone, for which I had paid, and in answer to my request, I was advised that although delivery had been anticipated for April 11, it would almost certainly be several weeks thereafter before I could expect to take delivery of the car. I would be advised.  
I am an ex-managing director of the distributor for the whole Ford line in Angola. I can state that the members of the Ford Motor Company, from Finn, to Swiss, French and Portuguese, who were sent out by Ford of Europe to assist me, were outstanding in their cooperation and in the fact that they worked, and worked hard. In the end, will I have to go to Ford Germany?  
Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES L. IRWIN,  
Nettlebed,  
Henley-on-Thames,  
Oxfordshire RG9 5AE.  
March 16.

## Providing an 'umbrella' for the construction industry

From Mr D. M. Walker  
Sir, May I have the opportunity of commenting on Mr Moxley's letter (March 14)—"Construction: a need to speak out".  
My association indicated, at the end of last year, a move to form an "umbrella" organisation, of particular, the professions in the construction industry, and there is no reason, in my view, why the proposal that your correspondent is putting forward should not be included in the activities of such a body. I agree with Mr Moxley in that there is a great need for our industry to combine its efforts. Whereas "power

through strength" is not a new concept it is one which is being used increasingly today.  
It is also very pertinent to note that if the 300,000 employed in the industry could be put back to work by a reduction of our activities, the total United Kingdom unemployment figure could be reduced by 20 per cent—at a stroke.  
Yours faithfully,  
D. M. WALKER,  
Immediate Past-President,  
The Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors,  
2 Half Moon Street,  
London W1,  
March 17.

## Maritime flag of the Seychelles

From the President of the Republic of Seychelles  
Sir, The article by Peter Hill, "Showing the flag at the Seychelles" (March 15) in my view reflects the intentions of my Government to set up the Seychelles maritime flag. The contents of the article completely misconstrues the facts and condemns the flag before it even has had time to establish itself.  
I would therefore wish to advise your readers that, my Government's intention is to establish the Seychelles as a maritime flag and in time to win the confidence and respectability that is attributed to the maritime nations.

The Government is only too aware of the years that have been tagged to some of the nations mentioned in the article and have every intention to take a firm hand in all matters concerning the safety of the ships and the crews that man them.  
Make no mistake, my Government has no intention of allowing any company or person to damage the reputation of our flag as, like the United Kingdom, we are an island, dependent entirely on the sea for our existence.  
Yours faithfully,  
JAMES R. MANCHAM,  
The Savoy, London.  
March 17.

## Call for inflation-indexed taxation

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent  
Britain's personal tax system ought to be indexed for inflation, a study from the Institute of Economic Affairs declares today.  
The study, written by Mr David Morgan, an economist at the International Monetary Fund, argues that a failure to adjust tax allowances to take account of rising prices was a major factor in the doubling of total personal taxes between 1973-74 and 1975-76.  
He argues that the system provides Government with a rapidly increasing source of revenue, making it easier to increase public spending without looking at the tax implications.  
The effect of inflation has been to increase tax rates heavily without forcing political proposals for higher-rate taxes.

The author shows conclusively that while the great majority of the population suffers some increase in taxation when inflation pushes up money income, the impact in percentage terms is greatest within any band for those who are worst off.  
In particular, for the great majority of the population who pay tax at the standard rate of 35 per cent, the worst effect is on those whose pay is small and whose families are large.  
This is because tax allowances are most important for them, so they suffer most from an erosion of the allowances' real value. The scale of the drop in the real value of these allowances is calculated at nearly a third in some cases.  
A single person's allowance stood at £595 in April, 1973, compared with £398 now, after allowing for inflation.  
For those who pay tax at the higher rates there has also been a substantial drop in the level

at which they move into a higher tax bracket. Higher-rate tax started at £5,000 in April, 1973, whereas it today starts at £2,711 in 1973 terms. The gap in real terms between each step is now about 60 per cent of what it was in 1973.  
The author claims that having an increasing source of income taxes, whose share of total tax revenue rose from 42.5 per cent in 1964 to 52.1 per cent in 1975, has been a major factor explaining government profligacy. He cites past examples of increasing government spending and also argues that the public-sector deficit has been in continual growth since 1972-73.  
Most of this section was clearly written before the December series of cuts and latest estimates, which suggest that the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement will fall sharply in 1976-77 and even faster next year.

## Interim Price Commission report on beer considered

By Ronald Emiler  
There is a possibility that the Price Commission will publish an interim report on beer, following within the Commission's subject to its most complex investigation yet undertaken, because of the nature of the industry, the size and areas covered by brewers, the complex system of tied houses and differing pricing structures.  
The Commission is finding that while information on what is regarded as the "national" brewers is relatively easily obtained, it is proving difficult to "sample" the regional producers, each of whom operates on a fairly closely chosen and differing areas.

Consequently, the possibility of an interim report on the production distribution costs of beer is being considered as an interim measure.  
Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has already the Commission's report on soft drink "Mixers" on his desk, and publication is expected some time before Easter.  
While this is expected to be highly critical of the licensed trade, the Department of Price may try to present that report on a fairly low key in order to direct public attention to what is regarded as the much more crucial investigation into beer prices.

## No rush to join NEB's Insac Data

By Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent  
Several negotiations with companies in the computer industry for membership of the National Enterprise Board's Insac Data Systems offshoot are "well down the line", according to Mr John Pearce, deputy director of the NEB's computers and electronics division.  
Interviewed in the current issue of Computing magazine, Mr Pearce says: "If Insac gets the membership I anticipate it will represent companies whose combined sales are already £40m to £50m".  
The new NEB subsidiary, he said, would provide overseas marketing operations for member companies and would also invest in members' hardware and software development programmes.  
Formation of the Insac company was announced by the NEB last month, since when Computer Analysts & Programmers, a leading London software house, has been the only company to announce negotiations for membership.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Tesco moves have paved way for stronger advance in the 1980s

While much retail stores analysis is centred on margins and consumer spending levels, J. & A. Scrimgeour has concentrated its research on property portfolios in forecasting a rating of Tesco Stores (Holdings).  
Tesco, the firm states, entered the current decade with a property portfolio heavily weighted with first and second generation supermarkets. Drawing on American sources, the broker states that the long-term vulnerability of such units is high, but having substantially extended and re-positioned its store base, Tesco will enter the 1980s in a stronger competitive position than it entered the 1970s.  
In the year ended February, 1977, the group should make almost £30m, pre-tax, the firm believes, against a target of £23.5m in the current year. The prospective earnings multiple of 8.7 compares with the food retailing multiple of 10.6, and Scrimgeour recommends that weightings in this "core sector holding" should be progressively increased.  
If Tesco, to borrow the brokers phrase, has been subjected to a "continued process of downward re-rating", De La Rue has been put through the hoop. Even so, the latest review by Phillips & Drew still refers to the missed forecasts

made in the course of repelling the Rank Organisation bid no less than eight years ago.  
De La Rue's acquisitions, the broker admits, seemed irrelevant to what the group knew best (shades of later institutional objection to Rank itself), but although the dominant security printing businesses may be entering a consolidation phase, after a year of exceptional growth, Foomica—such a headache in France and Germany last year—should substantially reduce losses in the near two years while United Kingdom trading prospects have improved with the introduction of new products.  
Phillips & Drew's analyst, Mr John Marsh, calculates that group earnings will almost double in the current year, giving a 20 per cent discount to average market price/earnings ratios.  
If De La Rue and Tesco have had their share of criticism over the years, EMI has been a blighted favourite. Give the market a glamour product—in this instance medical scanners—and there is inevitably a rush for the shares. The latest results, however, contained a warning on future growth rates, heavy spending requirements and harsh regulatory controls. Despite the subsequent appointment, both Rowe Rudd and Quilter Hilton Goodson were chosen to pick up the pieces.

Rowe's commentators, Mr Gerald Kelly, Mr John Carter and Mr Sean Roche, are worried by the technical position of the shares and estimate that they would fall sharply if the index dipped below 400.  
But after the interim figures and the Development Securities bid (effectively a rights issue), the broker is confident that new products announcements could restore EMI's growth rating. The CT scanning, ultrasound and linear accelerators are three important areas.  
The shares, say Rowe's trio, would be an "excellent buy" under 200p.  
Quilter's analyst, Mr Field Walton, is less sanguine. The results, he says, were not up to expectations and the stock no longer warrants an above-average rating, although the Development Securities deal could provide a boost to income grounds. A final dividend of 8.75p has been forecast.  
Income comes bottom of Fielding, Newson-Smith's priorities for a recommendation in Imperial Continental Gas Association. Earnings, says Mr D. A. Richards, will grow by a third this year due to the pay off on the investment in Color, Petrofina's benefits from the North Sea and the improvement from the Belgian subsidiaries.

Ray Maughan

## Shellabear gets £1.35m offer—if all goes well

When shareholders in a group which coyly reveals an anonymous suitor have to wait weeks for details they are some time entitled to feel the worst.  
But in the case of biotech and civil engineer Shellabear Price which sank into the red in the six months to June 30 last, the wait was not in vain. On February 4 it reported talks with "an unnamed company" and the shares leapt 17p to 40p.  
At the end of last week they were 37p and now an offer of 45p cash has come along. The suitor is revealed as Biwater, a private company at Dorking, Surrey designs, supplies and installs water treatment plants at home and abroad. In the year to September 30, exports

were around 90 per cent of turnover.  
In 1975 Biwater won the "Queen's Award to Industry for Exports".  
Shellabear and SG Warburg think the offer is fair and certain directors and their families will back it for 53 per cent of the capital. County Bank advises Biwater.  
There could be a snag. Shellabear thinks that it made some profits last year, but Biwater has instructed accountants to verify the management accounts of Shellabear for 1976, and to confirm no material change for the worse since then. It also wants to be satisfied about the worth of Shellabear's property and plant. Only if all goes well will Biwater spend its money.

## Sir John Prideaux on need for realism in bank accounting

By Adrienne Gleeson  
Likening the problems for the banks in maintaining their capital ratios at a time of high inflation to "that which arises in the accounts of industrial undertakings needing additional working capital to cover inflationary increases in the cost of replacing stocks", National Westminster's retiring chairman, Sir John Prideaux, points out in his annual report that without adjustment for this erosion of free capital ratios, to determine current cost profits of banks "will not be meaningful".  
Last year, as the accounts showed, National Westminster's deposits rose by 16 per cent to £15,384m (with International

Westminster Bank's deposits accounting for something over £4,200m of that), while shareholders' funds rose by less than 9 per cent.  
The rise in shareholders' funds was, however, depressed by the property reassessment which wiped £50m off the value of certain central London premises and offset most of the benefits, in terms of strengthening the balance sheet, which the group obtained from last year's £64m rights issue.  
Sir John says that the bank's property assessments now show that there is "no significant difference between the overall book and market values of the group's property".  
The new tower building in Bishopsgate, which was topped

out last week and which is, when completed, to hold the international division, is included in fixed assets (up from £550m to £554m during the year) as one of the major sites in course of revaluation.  
These are taken in, at cost, at £79m at end-December, as against £51m at the end of the preceding year. Commitments for future expenditure at the year-end amounted to £183m as against £196m a year previously.  
He also says that while the resources of Coutts & Co continued to grow satisfactorily, published profits have been held back by the need for further provisions against advances.

## Westinghouse in Italian talks

Westinghouse Electric Corporation says that it has indicated willingness to discuss reducing its equity in two majority owned Italian nuclear supply units.  
The group added that in response to "desires expressed by the Italian Government" it has held preliminary discussions about reducing its more than 50 per cent equity interest in two Italian-based suppliers of nuclear reactor components, and Coren, an Italian-based nuclear fuel company.  
Westinghouse pointed out that there have not yet been formal discussions about the sale of the equity interest. No agreement had been reached.  
AP-Dow Jones.

At the pricing price of £99 the flat yield on the £3m issue is 51.38 per cent, and the redemption yield is 51.46 per cent. The strength of the gilt-edged market since the issue was placed on Wednesday suggests that the stock will go to a small premium.  
The chairman of the old New York banking house of J. P. Morgan is looking for a "more robust" United States economy this year. Forecasting a

moderate improvement in earnings of the bank for the March quarter, Mr Eilmore Patterson says that interest rates "should move upward a few notches as loan demand builds".  
The company's chief subsidiary is Morgan Guaranty Trust.  
—AP-Dow Jones.

**Briefly**  
LAFARGE SA  
Turnover for 1976 up from 5,300m francs to about 6,000m francs (about £700m). Earnings expected to be about 180m francs (130.5m francs). Net dividend of 11.18 francs per share, and 5.59 francs tax credit (10.50 francs and 5.25 francs respectively for 1975).  
SENA SUGAR ESTATE  
Board of circumstances indicating possibility of offer for all outstanding £419,181 of 81 per cent second deb stock 1987-92.  
COMBINED ENGLISH STORES  
Netherlands associate, jointly owned with NV Amer Druyng Bortuon, Rotterdam, has issued for £275,000 cash. Co adds to group's handbag interests.  
FINLAND BANK NOTES  
Union Bank of Finland is offering £30m of floating rate notes in the Eurobond market through syndicate headed by Citicorp International. The notes will pay

semi-annual interest at 1 per cent plus above the six-month London interbank rate, subject to an expected minimum of 61 per cent.  
TACE  
At annual meeting, Mr J. H. M. Mackenzie said that litigation between Co and Royal Dutch Shell sub, Bilton, over claims and counter claims about Dutch counter claims about Bilton continues. Group's trading encouraging.  
CIBL  
Citicorp International Bank (CIBL), part of Citicorp International, 1976 pre-tax profit £5.27m (£5.27m). Group kept to place last year in syndication of international loans, and did more in Eurocurrency.  
ENGLISH PROPERTY CORP  
In exchange for the minority shareholdings in two subsidiaries, English Property Corp has issued to Mr C. B. Leth, a former director, 450,000 ordinary shares, plus £100,000 cash.  
STAFFS POTTERIES  
Staffs Potteries (Holdings) has been told by Hill, Standard that it has disposed of 450,000 ordinary shares in Staffordshire and now holds none.

More financial news, page 24

## Mid-Sussex deserves a small premium

Dealings are due to start on Wednesday in the new £50-paid Mid-Sussex Water Company 154 per cent Redeemable Debenture placed by broker Dennis Murphy, Campbell last week.

## Freight report

Tanker rates for large vessels trading out of the Gulf continued their upward path during the first half of last week.  
But as the weekend approached the amount of new inquiry and actual business being concluded fell away noticeably, probably because companies seeking tonnage for March loadings have now satisfied their requirements and the pressure to take up first-quarter quotas are off.  
If this is the case, the lull in trading may last into early April and probably longer. Rate levels could also slip back a little.  
Demand from both major and independent oil companies was sufficient in the beginning of last week to push rates up to an average Worldwide 31, four points above the previous week. This achievement was put down to the near-balance existing between demand and supply.  
Conditions also improved for smaller tankers in the 130,000/140,000-ton deadweight range, where a narrow balance between supply and demand was also being reported. As a result, rates firmed up to around Worldwide 42.  
While volume of Mediterranean fixing remained about the same, Caribbean chartering showed signs of recovery, particularly towards the end of the week. Surplus tonnage has tended to keep rates low lately, but there were signs of an increase in trading.  
In the dry cargo market the hopes of China coming into this sector for tonnage to serve its recent grain purchase deal with Australia were dashed, temporarily at least. They are holding off making any moves until they have undertaken an assessment of their own position.

## Business appointments

## Lord Caldecote to head Legal and General

Viscount Caldecote, deputy chairman of the Legal and General Assurance Society, is to succeed Viscount Harcourt as chairman when the latter retires at the annual general meeting on May 18. Lord Caldecote joined the company's board in 1962 and in February last year was appointed deputy chairman in January. He is also chairman of Delta Metal Co and a director of Lloyds Bank and Consolidated Gold Fields.  
Mr Alastair Robertson, secretary and deputy general manager of the Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society, has been appointed a director of the society with effect from September 1. He will become general manager on succession to Mr Ian Isles, who retires on August 31. Mr Isles will remain a director.  
Mr Charles Green has been appointed director, field engineering, Europe, of NCR.  
Mr N. F. Nicholson has been named as director, EMI Leisure Enterprises. Mrs Mary Jeffrey becomes finance director, EMI Hotels and Restaurants Operations, and Mr D. R. Davies, managing director, EMI Sound and Vision Equipment.  
Mr David Morton, managing director of Alcan Booth Industries and assistant managing director of Alcan Aluminium (UK), has been named as director, EMI Sound and Vision Equipment.  
Mr W. J. Wilkes has been made chairman of James Wilkes to succeed to Mr J. Wilkes, who retires on March 31.  
Mr A. J. Love, of Lankro Chemicals, has been elected chairman of the recently-formed Foams Manufacturers' Association.  
Mr John Briggs has been made managing director of Townsend Car Ferries. Mr John Parsons has been appointed deputy managing director of the company.  
Mr F. Ross has been named chairman of AMEV Life Assurance in succession to Mr J. P. Bol. Mr J. P. Bol, who has retired, was vice-president of the company.  
Mr C. A. Bielenberg has joined the board of Resource Evaluation as an executive director. He was

previously managing director of Robert Fraser & Partners. Mr M. J. Bouffice becomes deputy managing director and Mr C. H. Cumner company secretary. Mr J. R. Thorne has been appointed a non-executive director.  
Mr H. D. Elverum has been made vice-president of a new component group in Honeywell Inc Control Systems operations. He is succeeded as president and general manager of Honeywell Europe by Mr Joe Chenoweth.  
Mr T. Holborn is to become managing director of Toller Satchard from April 1. Mr A. Begli (Swiss) and Mr G. E. Raymond (French) also join the board.  
Mr J. E. Manghardt (Swiss) has resigned.  
Mr A. S. R. Davidson, has been appointed a joint general manager of Bank of Scotland in succession to Mr D. M. Cowan, who retires on May 15.  
Mr G. J. R. Rainey will resign his directorship of Delta Enfield Cables (Holdings) and its subsidiaries on April 7, when he transfers to Delta Metal as financial controller. Mr R. H. Ludwick, Mr A. M. Morgan and Mr T. H. Neal will join the board of Delta Enfield Cables (Holdings). Mr H. A. Lee is named a director of Delta Enfield Cables. Mr James Sweeney has been named a director of E. F. Hutton (London).  
Mr James Pridley has joined the board of English and International Trust.


**Aquis Securities Limited**  
PROPERTY INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Extracts from the Accounts and the Review of the year ended 31st December 1976 by the Chairman, Mr Harold Quinlan.  
(With comparative figures for the year to 31st December 1975).

- \* Net profit before tax £234,920 (1975: 255,601)
- \* After taxation £199,557 (1975: £152,348)
- \* Proposed Final Dividend of 0.375 pence per share making a total of 0.6 pence per share for the year (1975 total: 0.576413 pence)
- \* Group retained profits carried forward £195,986 (1975: £241,897)

\* As to the future, the outlook for your Group in 1977 is bright, and there seems no doubt that our profits will continue to grow.

Annual General Meeting will take place at noon on Friday, 15th April 1977 at the Clarendon Court Hotel, Maids Vale, London W9 1AG.

**A. J. BEKHOR & Co. Ltd.** 

**CORPORATE MEMBER OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE**

announce that they have obtained consent to become option dealers and will commence trading on 22nd March 1977.

## TAISHO MARINE AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS TO BEARER  
Issued pursuant to the Deed Poll dated 28th July, 1961.  
Notice of ordinary meeting of the holders of the debentures of the Depository Shares each representing 10 Shares of Common Stock of 50 Yen each.  
The Times wishes to point out that two Notices concerning Taisho Marine and Fire Insurance Company, Limited, were accidentally printed on Friday, 18th March, 1977. The meeting referred to in the Notices will be held at 11 Bishopsgate, London EC2A 4AA, on Tuesday, 14th March, 1977, at 11.00 a.m. The correct Notice appeared on page 30 of The Times issue of 18th March, 1977.



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(Hodder & Stoughton, £3.95)

Perhaps the single most interesting fact about this work, a study of the role of the Confederation of British Industry in the political system, is that it has been written by two academics, Dr Wyn Grant and Dr David Marsh, rather than by a journalist or a professional author.

This in itself tells one something about the confederation. Academics are content to write about worthy subjects with monetary gain only a secondary motive. Professional writers, in contrast, tend to look far more closely at the popularity of their subject matter and its direct relationship to their bank balance.

The unions and the TUC have always managed to attract people from Grub Street to chronicle their doings. Not so the CBI.

The point is not frivolous, but tells one something important about the relative standings of the CBI and the TUC in the public consciousness. The unions can always draw an audience which is denied to the "industrialists' trade union".

In the first decade of its being this matter little to the CBI, it was the lobby of Whitehall and to a lesser extent the corridors of Westminster

which were the most important stamping grounds of John Davies, the first director general, and his successor, Campbell Adamson.

The permanent secretary's room and the minister's lounge are still of prime importance to the CBI but since the corporatist approach to economic and industrial management began in the Heath era, the demands of Tothill Street have been catapulted into a role in which they have often seemed uneasy.

And that new role—an overtly political one—has added a new dimension to the paradox that has dogged the CBI since its inception, which was how to appease its membership at the same time as aiming its well honed darts of constructive criticism at the Government and the Civil Service.

Brought into the centre of the decision making machinery by the tripartite approach, the leaders of industry must now pay more ardent court to another important constituency—public opinion. On such matters as pay and price control the confederation must carry with it not only business' backing but a measure of public approbation.

Let any one underestimate how important a role this now plays in the CBI's functioning. It is worthy of note that Mr John Medves has gone on record as saying that one of

the most important decisions he made on first entering Tothill Street was to appear on the Jimmy Young programme where he had instant access to many millions of purse-string wielding ordinary people whose understanding of the confederation's arguments on matters like inflation and profits might be crucially important in getting those arguments accepted around the tripartite table.

A second edition of this book would be valuable. The present edition covers the confederation from its beginnings in 1965 to the general election in 1974, with some updating to bring in the most important developments between 1974 and spring 1976. Its judgments on such recent matters as its tripartite approach are necessarily interim by nature.

A second edition would allow the authors to gauge the CBI's performance and contribution in the relatively new milieu in which it finds itself.

From standing quietly in the wings, the confederation has been a main player or simply as a foil for those more experienced trouper politicians and the union leaders.

Malcolm Brown

## Putting trust in anti-trust

The Control of Oil by John M. Blair

(Macmillan £12)

During the final two years of the Ford Administration the American-based multinational oil companies were subjected to congressional campaign to force them to sell off parts of their worldwide investments that stretch from the exploration and production of crude oil to the sale of petrol at the pump.

If Congressmen had had their way companies like Exxon, Texaco and Gulf would have been permitted to operate in only one of the four broad categories—production, transportation, refining, and marketing—into which the industry is roughly divided.

Activities outside the sector chosen by the company would have to be sold. This first section of the book, the world's largest industrial grouping was beaten off but oil company executives expect the divestiture lobby to renew its efforts over the next few years.

Dr Blair, a former chief economist to the United States Senate sub-committee on Anti-Trust and Monopoly, has produced an effective handbook for anyone wanting to embark on the monumental task of trying to dislodge the major oil companies from their dominant positions in the oil business.

His lengthy and closely argued volume traces, as a number of other books have done previously, the rise of the Seven Sisters—the seven largest oil companies in the world. But he tackles in more depth what he terms as "the evaporation" of independent oil producers in Libya and the crippling of independent oil marketing companies, both of which posed a serious threat to the ordered world that the majors have built up.

Dr Blair is an advocate of competition, but not the sort he sees in the oil industry. Oil companies maintained prices, he says, by ensuring that supply and demand were always in equally matched—cutting back on Middle Eastern production whenever oil from new sources threatened to produce a surplus with attendant selling of crude at distress prices.

According to Dr Blair it was the major oil companies that reduced the supply of oil from members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) at the height of the industrial slump of 1974/75. Without this reduction the amount of distressed oil on the market would have been sufficient to bring widespread price concessions and "probably the disintegration of the Opec cartel".

Regulation of the oil industry by government is destined to fail he claims. Officials not only become knowledgeable about the companies' organisation and structure but also its problems and from this comes "understanding and not infrequently sympathy. Knowledge and sympathy understanding tends to ruin all attempts at effective regulation.

In contrast once an anti-trust action is started the government agency and the companies are adversaries. "Instead of mutual understanding the prevailing attitude is one of antagonism. In such a climate industry and corruption do not thrive", he adds.

Roger Vielvoe



A staircase of great splendour taken from The Hall of the Fishmongers' Company by Priscilla Metcalf (Phillimore £12), which traces the history of the Thames-side site occupied by the company.

## We're only here for the advertising

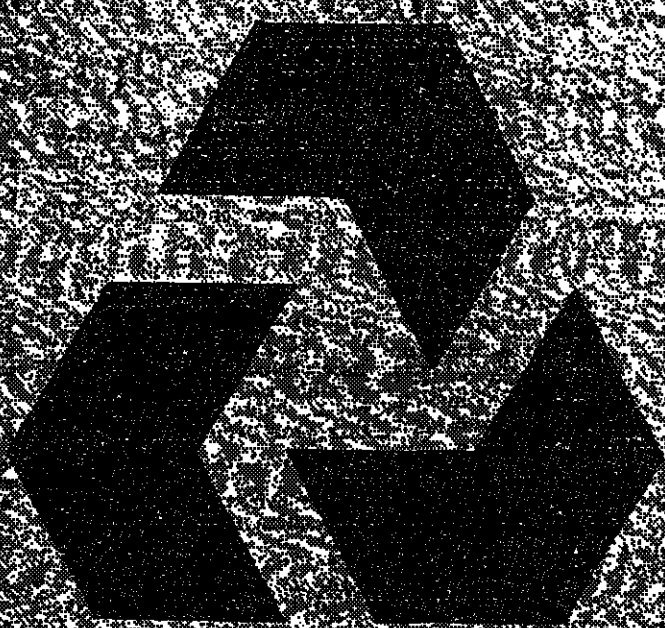
Advertising Inside Out by Philip Kleinman

(W. H. Allen, £4.50)

The advertising industry tends to be as susceptible to fashion as are the advertisements it produces. Big changes have taken place as the business has moved from the swinging sixties to the austere seventies.

Of the five biggest agencies listed in





# NatWest 1976

From the Statement by the Chairman  
Sir John Prideaux GBE



The recovery in the Group profit has reversed the trend of the last two years and is especially important at a time of high inflation – the retention of adequate profits remains essential in building our capital base to keep it in line with the Group's needs.



We have substantial commitments by way of medium-term support for industry in addition to providing short-term working capital – and we have expanded our financing of the North Sea oil and gas industry taking the lead in several major loans.



Overall, our international business continues to show strong growth in both assets and profits and we are proud to be among the nation's leading invisible exporters.



The responsibility for recreating the climate necessary to encourage industry to invest for re-equipment and modernisation rests with the Government itself: given the appropriate climate, 1977 could set the stage for a dramatic and sustained recovery in the UK economic fortunes in which we are ready to play a full part.

## Figures taken from the Group Accounts 1976

Ordinary share capital.....	£222 million
Reserves .....	£697 million
Current, deposit and other accounts.....	£15,384 million
Advances .....	£10,615 million
Group profit after allocation to staff profit-sharing .....	£188 million
Tax .....	£100 million
Retained profit .....	£63 million

# National Westminster Bank Group



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Euromarkets

Most sectors of the Euromarket were buoyant over the past week as investors reacted favourably to a combination of good news on offer, more generous terms and stable short-term interest rates for most currencies, reports AP—Joe Jones.

About the only questionable area is the Swiss franc sector, where the World Bank was emboldened by a 50 per cent cut in the size of its proposed 200m franc issue (about \$45m).

Guilder bonds came into demand on expectations of a Dutch discount rate cut, new Dutch market bonds sold well in a generally good market. Canadian dollar bonds improved on a belief that the recent decline of the Canadian dollar on the foreign exchange market had about run its course and, in the United States, dollar-denominated security prices rose steadily and generally held their gains as the week ended.

Particularly in the dollar sector, underwriters were enthusiastic about investor response to new issues on offer. As expected, with signs of confidence returning, the calendar of new issues expanded, but by Friday there were no signs of indigestion developing.

One dealer said: "We can't talk of this as a bull market, however." He attributed the better performance in part to unexpected readiness in American short-term interest rates. This probably reflected mainly a delay in the expected upswing of the American economy as a result of an exceptionally harsh winter.

The belief that interest rates are moving ahead is reflected in Monday's pricing of a European Investment Bank three-tranche dollar-denominated issue. The issue was the Swiss franc sector, seven-year tranches boosted to \$75m from an original \$50m was priced at 100.25 with an 8 per cent coupon, to yield 7.95 per cent. The \$50m 10-year tranche carrying an 8.25 per cent coupon, priced at 99.75 to yield 8.29 per cent.

Outstanding dollar issues on offer at the end of the week included:

Société Nationale Elf-Aquitaine \$750m, eight years, rated A-3 by Moody's, carrying an indicated coupon of 8.25 per cent. Underwriting sources said the issue was likely to sell out.

Singer International Securities, a subsidiary of the American Singer Co. \$300m, five years, 8.75 per cent coupon.

EMI Finance BV, a subsidiary of EMI, \$300m, 12-year bonds, indicated coupon of 9.25 per cent.

## Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

Issue	Yield	Premium
5 STRAIGHTS		
Algeria 1978	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1979	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1980	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1981	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1982	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1983	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1984	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1985	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1986	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1987	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1988	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1989	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1990	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1991	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1992	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1993	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1994	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1995	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1996	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1997	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1998	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1999	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2000	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2001	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2002	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2003	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2004	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2005	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2006	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2007	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2008	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2009	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2010	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2011	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2012	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2013	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2014	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2015	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2016	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2017	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2018	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2019	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2020	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2021	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2022	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2023	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2024	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2025	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2026	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2027	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2028	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2029	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2030	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2031	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2032	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2033	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2034	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2035	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2036	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2037	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2038	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2039	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2040	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2041	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2042	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2043	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2044	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2045	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2046	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2047	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2048	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2049	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2050	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2051	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2052	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2053	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2054	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2055	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2056	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2057	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2058	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2059	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2060	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2061	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2062	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2063	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2064	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2065	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2066	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2067	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2068	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2069	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2070	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2071	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2072	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2073	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2074	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2075	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2076	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2077	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2078	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2079	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2080	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2081	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2082	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2083	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2084	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2085	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2086	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2087	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2088	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2089	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2090	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2091	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2092	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2093	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2094	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2095	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2096	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2097	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2098	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2099	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2100	10.00	0.00

## Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Issue	Yield	Premium
5 STRAIGHTS		
Algeria 1978	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1979	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1980	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1981	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1982	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1983	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1984	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1985	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1986	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1987	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1988	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1989	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1990	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1991	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1992	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1993	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1994	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1995	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1996	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1997	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1998	10.00	0.00
Algeria 1999	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2000	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2001	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2002	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2003	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2004	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2005	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2006	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2007	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2008	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2009	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2010	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2011	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2012	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2013	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2014	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2015	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2016	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2017	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2018	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2019	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2020	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2021	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2022	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2023	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2024	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2025	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2026	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2027	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2028	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2029	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2030	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2031	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2032	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2033	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2034	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2035	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2036	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2037	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2038	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2039	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2040	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2041	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2042	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2043	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2044	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2045	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2046	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2047	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2048	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2049	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2050	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2051	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2052	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2053	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2054	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2055	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2056	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2057	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2058	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2059	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2060	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2061	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2062	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2063	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2064	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2065	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2066	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2067	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2068	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2069	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2070	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2071	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2072	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2073	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2074	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2075	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2076	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2077	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2078	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2079	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2080	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2081	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2082	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2083	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2084	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2085	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2086	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2087	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2088	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2089	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2090	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2091	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2092	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2093	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2094	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2095	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2096	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2097	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2098	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2099	10.00	0.00
Algeria 2100	10.00	0.00

## Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	10.1%
Consolidated Credits	11.1%
First London Secs	11.1%
C. Moore & Co.	10.1%
Lloyds Bank	10.1%
Midland Bank	10.1%
Nat Westminster	10.1%
Rossminster Acc's	11.1%
Shenley Trust	14.1%
Williams & Glyn's	10.1%

M. J. E. NIGHTINGALE & CO. LIMITED  
62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8EP. Tel: 01-638 8551

Commodity	Unit	Price	Yield	P.E.
1.50 Arapong Ord	15	1.2	12.0	6.9
2.3 Arapong 13.5 CULS	118	1.1	18.5	15.7
700 Arapong & Rhodes	28	1.0	10.7	4.7
1.75 Deborah Ord	85	1.2	8.6	4.7
1.18 Deborah 17.5 CULS	108	1.1	17.6	16.1
4.100 Henry Secs	49	1.1	14.3	15.7
11.719 Jones Burroughs	81	1.1	6.0	7.4
2.377 Robert Jenkins	238	1.4	25.0	10.7
2.872 Twinkl Ord	14	1.1	1.0	—
1.610 Twinkl 12.5 ULS	59	1.1	12.0	20.3
2.384 Twinkl 10.5 ULS	52	1.1	11.4	6.9
4.674 Walker Alexander	74	1.3	5.8	7.8

## Political risks force private capital to shun Third World development

Since 14 European mining companies (including the four United Kingdom mining finance houses) made a submission to the EEC Commission last year on the question of political risk guarantees for investments in Third World countries, the matter has been shelved or even dropped, but in the face of bureaucratic delays, discussion on the contents and suggestions of the document continues at a snail's pace.

Since no action would involve the agreement of various governments it is hardly surprising there is much discussion (the document itself was not drawn up without considerable debate among the signatories) but the delay is not due to a lack of interest in the matter.

That does not mean the matter has been shelved or even dropped, but in the face of bureaucratic delays, discussion on the contents and suggestions of the document continues at a snail's pace.

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